



THE INDEPENDENT

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IN THE NEWS SECTION

From the Garrick to Pooh Corner

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TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 1998

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TUESDAY REVIEW FRONT



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Top insurance firms in police inquiry over pension sales fiasco

THREE OF THE UK's biggest household names in insurance yesterday emerged as being involved in an unprecedented inquiry by the Metropolitan Police which could potentially lead to criminal charges against their directors.

Legal & General, Guardian Royal Exchange and Sun Life of Canada are the three main companies whose pensions sales are being examined for possible criminal breaches of the Financial Services Act 1986. *The Independent* has established.

The Met's company fraud squad has been conducting a

BY ANDREW VERTHY

year-long inquiry into possible breaches of the Act, linked to the UK's £15bn pension mis-selling scandal.

Under section 47 of the Act, anyone who dishonestly or recklessly makes a misleading statement to push the sale of an investment product is guilty of an offence. It also says directors could be responsible for the behaviour of their sales representatives with a maximum prison sentence of seven years.

If any prosecutions were to be successful, it could open the floodgates for many further

similar inquiries, costing the industry millions in further fines and compensation.

The three companies were surprised at suggestions that they might be involved. An L&G statement said: "All that Legal & General know of an alleged police investigation is what we have read in the newspapers. We have not been contacted by the police and, to the best of our knowledge, no current or past director has been contacted by police."

GRE also said it had no knowledge of a fraud squad investigation. However, Sun Life of Canada said one of its repre-

sentatives had been interviewed by the fraud squad but not in connection with pension mis-selling. The police inquiries started last year after formal complaints from three policyholders, one with each company, who believe they have been subject to mis-selling under crimi-

nal provisions of the Act. The policyholders are Michael Moyes of Taunton, Terry Golding of Reading and Michael Jacobs of Seer Green near Becclesfield, Buckinghamshire. They are angry that neither government officials nor regulators had not referred any of

the pension mis-selling cases to the police for consideration of possible offences under the criminal provisions of the Act.

Before Labour came to power, Mr Moyes wrote to Tony Blair on the issue of criminal mis-selling who referred Mr Moyes to Mike O'Brien, then financial services spokesman.

He wrote to Mr Moyes: "I have made it clear publicly Labour would regard the completion of the pensions mis-selling compensation programme as a priority and we would also seek to ensure disciplinary and, if appropriate, criminal sanctions were applied."

The policyholders fear the government is now more interested in speeding up the mis-selling review begun four years ago.

Mr O'Brien was shunted away from the financial services brief after the election. His replacement, Helen Liddell, has rigorously pursued the regulator's review but has said nothing about referrals to the police. In the Cabinet reshuffle two weeks ago, she was replaced by the arch-Blairite MP Patricia Hewitt.

Despite two million cases of potential mis-selling and an estimate of £15bn in compen-

sation owed to victims, regulators yesterday said they had decided there were no grounds to refer any cases to the police.

Instead, the Financial Services Authority has concentrated on pushing ahead with the review, which gives companies the responsibility of deciding whether policies have been mis-sold.

A spokeswoman for the FSA said: "We have always been aware of the criminal provisions of the act, which is much more about prior intent." She said that in millions of cases, regulators had found no reason to suppose any prior intent.



Deal gives march the go-ahead

CATHOLICS AND Protestants yesterday reached a potentially ground-breaking agreement over one of the more contentious events in Northern Ireland's marching season.

While some members of the Orange Order remain encamped at Drumcree still demanding to walk through the Catholic area, an arrangement was reached yesterday to allow up to 15,000 Apprentice Boys to march through Londonderry.

The agreement, which came after lengthy negotiations between the Apprentice Boys and the members of the nationalist Bogside Residents Association, will allow just 13 marchers to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in the city centre. One band will accompany the other marchers through the city walls.

The march around the walls, commemorating the lifting of the siege of Derry in 1689, has been a flashpoint for confrontation, particularly where the march passes above the Catholic Bogside area. After Drumcree and the killing of three young Catholic brothers, there was concern about further confrontation and both sides yesterday recognised the importance of their agreement.

Alastair Simpson, Governor of the Apprentice Boys, said: "A small but significant step has been taken for the better future of the city and for all our communities this weekend."

"The Apprentice Boys have made every effort to make their

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

parades peaceful days and the understanding reached maintains the dignity of the events."

A spokesman for the Apprentice Boys added later: "I think it is very positive that we have been able to reach an agreement and I think that this could be a model for dealing with future disputes elsewhere."

Donncha MacNallys, spokesman for the Bogside Residents Association, said that had the same commitment to reach agreement been shown at Drumcree, tragedy may have been avoided.

"The accommodation reached today shows what can result when the will to reach agreement exists," he said.

"This achievement should spur those involved to follow the natural progression of this process to enter direct discussions to reach a comprehensive and lasting agreement."

Had an agreement not been reached the Parades Commission would have been forced to ban the march.

■ The dissident Republican group yesterday claimed responsibility for Saturday's bomb attack in Banbridge, Co Down, which left 35 people injured and caused millions of pounds worth of damage.

They also said they carried out a wave of incendiary bomb attacks in Belfast this weekend.

BY JOHN LICHFIELD AND ANDREW BUNCOMBE

case law suggests that a suspect may only be extradited if the alleged crime also exists in France.

Specialists in French extradition law said complex legal submissions could drag the process on for two years. But because there is no French equivalent of the Official Secrets Act, the process may be impossible. A large body of

amid reports that he was about to post MI5 secrets on the internet. He is currently being held at the Prison de la Santé, a reportedly grim prison in Paris. He was due to be visited by consular officials yesterday evening.

Mr Shayler's solicitor, John Wadham, director of the civil rights group Liberty, yesterday repeated his client's intention to fight extradition. He said a French lawyer had been

arranged to represent Mr Shayler.

Details of Mr Shayler's ar-

rest remain unclear. He had travelled to Paris from rural

France to record an interview

for the BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* programme – due to be broadcast the following morning.

He was arrested returning to his hotel after watching a football match and the interview was never recorded.

Yesterday Maître Simon

Foreman, a French lawyer with wide experience of extradition cases, said: "Obviously you can be prosecuted in France if you reveal a state secret. But as far as I understand this case, Mr Shayler is likely to be tried in Britain for infringing principle of state secrecy enshrined in the Official Secrets Act. No such thing exists in France. We have a tradition of liberty of expression which would make such a law unconstitutional."

He said while there are French laws forbidding the unveiling of specific military and defence secrets there was no catch-all Official Secrets Act.

He added: "At the very least,

this is likely to be one of the principle submissions of Shayler's lawyers if they wish to fight the case as vigorously as possible. Whether such a submission would prevent his extradition altogether would remain to be seen."

Shayler extradition could take years

Roget gets on-message to girl power, Prozac and dangly bits

BY WILLIAM HARTSTON

ALL HUMAN life is there, in 990 categories, compartments, divisions, brackets, pigeon-holes. A new edition of Roget's *Thesaurus*, the first for 11 years, is published this week, a splendid hybrid of late 20th century taxonomy. When Peter Mark Roget, the son of a Swiss

lutheran preacher and a French Huguenot, compiled his *Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases* in 1852, it was not only a landmark in linguistic scholarship, but also the most eloquent testimony to obsessive compulsive behav-

iour the world had ever seen. In an era when natural scientists wanted to classify everything, Roget performed the task for words, from Class 1: "Abstract relations" to Class 6: "Emotion, religion and morality", with each class divided and subdivided as necessary. In Roget's first edition, there were

15,000 words. The new edition, edited by Betty Kirkpatrick, has more than a quarter of a million, all finding their rightful places in Roget's original scheme.

Dangly bits are there too, in

167 Proprietary, under section 8 Causation, of Class 1 Abstract Relations, between rocks (sl)

and lunch-box (Gb). And if you fail to be on message about the millennium bug, girl power, or even just having a bad hair day and driven to road rage and a dose of Prozac, you will find them all in the new edition too.

But what help can Roget provide for describing someone who would take on such a colo-

sal task as categorising the English language? Was it originally a boorish person, brimful, amoral, trampsider? Or worse, a sado (sl), dweeb (sl), geek (sl), dryasdust, buttonholer, killjoy? No, we find him best described under Personal emotion, section 862 Fastidiousness. Perfectionist, idealist, purist, precisionist, pedant, nit-picker, stickler he must have been, but as usual, Roget's *Thesaurus* provides us with the *mot juste*: Peter Mark Roget must have been the world's greatest fussbudget. *Roget's Thesaurus of English words and phrases*, Penguin Books £14.99.

representative, stock, somebody's somebody, employ, illustrate, in prior 9 reference, according to rule, regular, politically correct, PC, on message, dialogue, Russell Johnson (copybook), 60 analogies, contexts, sounds, proper, canonical 976 entries, strict, precise, purist, perfectionist, purism, obsessives, RTT, fussy, pig, critic, unbecoming, uncomprising, Procrustean, etc., etc.

From the new edition

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Scottish media tycoon Gus Macdonald has been appointed as a business and industry minister

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President Clinton is not going to change his stony view over Monica Lewinsky, the White House insisted

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London Electricity has been put up for sale by its US owners, Entergy, and may be valued at £1.9bn

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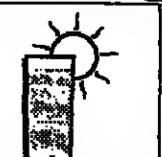
SPORT

Patrick Kluivert, the Dutch striker, has turned down a £9m move to Manchester United

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Bright with PIMM'S spells throughout the day.



A bit of a stink at the Garrick over Winnie the Pooh's pot of money



IT IS not known whether Winnie the Pooh would be allowed to become a member of the Garrick Club. On the plus side, he is male, he is hairy and he has an oral fetish of the most rampant sort. On the minus side, he is a bear.

But the club that won't have women has never expressed a view on ursine types and, since his creator A.A. Milne was a member, then Winnie probably could be one too.

This comes up because the Garrick's 1,000 human types are faced with the kind of problem that Winnie would know just what to do with. A.A. Milne left the rights to Pooh to four beneficiaries: his family, the Royal Literary Fund, his school (Westminster) and his club (said Garrick). Now Disney wants to buy the rights for future royalty for £200m. That means that each beneficiary could get about £50m. The idea of this amount of cash coming through the letterbox at Garrick Street, in central London, has caused uproar among members with a battle raging about who and what should benefit from all this money and how it all should be decided.

The problem is that it is simply too much money to be sensible about. Pooh knows this too. "That's a gollopot full-up pot of honey," he said when confronted in the story Piglet Meets a Heffalump. Others see it in more precise terms and figure that, after the deal is done, there could be some

BY ANN TRENEGAN

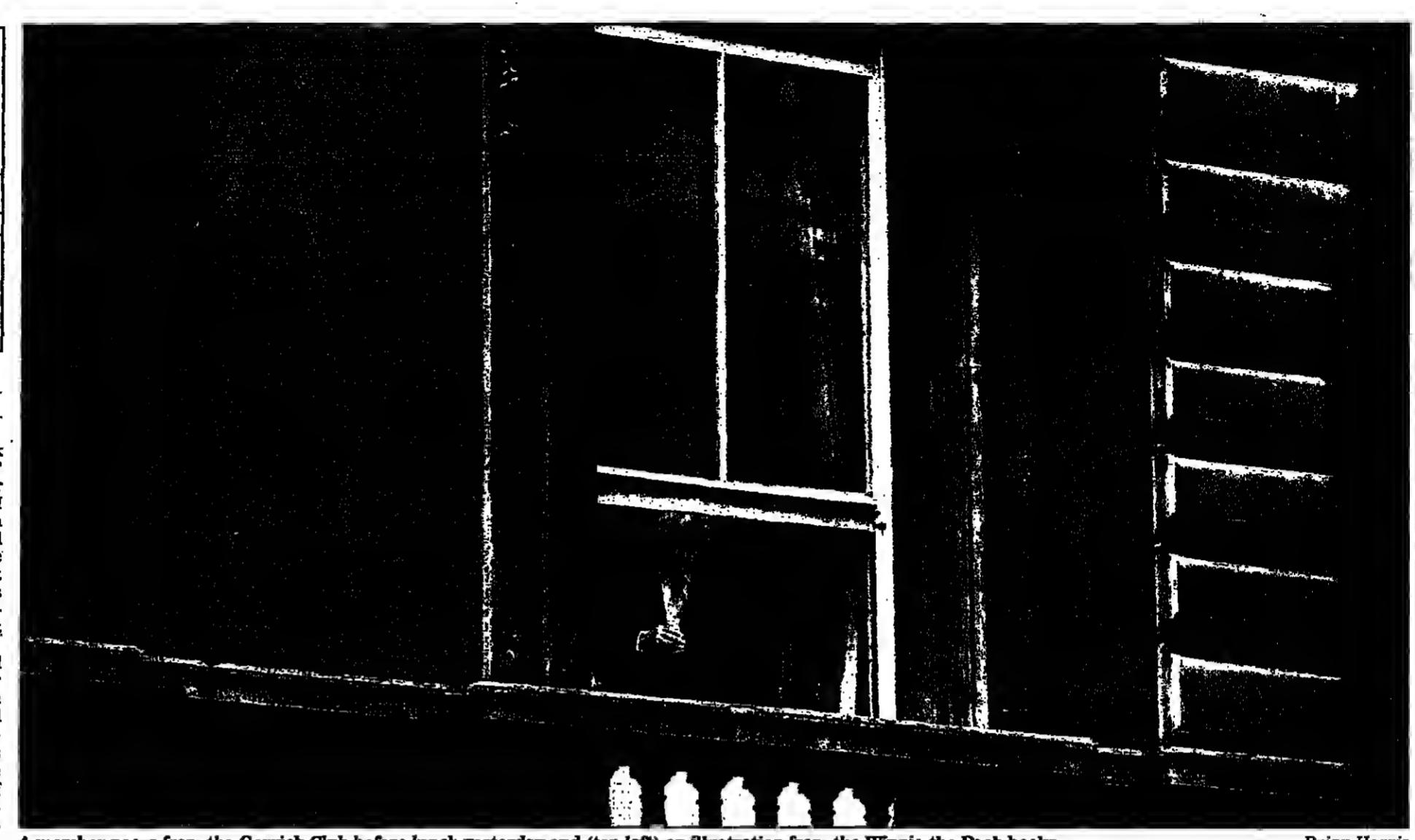
£39,000 available for each individual member.

"I don't think the Garrick needs a new wing or anything," said Lord Lamont, former Chancellor of the Exchequer. "I feel a little like Winnie the Pooh who, when asked if he would like honey or jam, replied he would like both - and without the bread." Pooh rejects this and says Lord "Tigger" Lamont has taken his comments out of context.

But, back in the unreal world of the Garrick, the 30-member general committee has taken matters into its own hands and called a special general meeting for Friday week. It wants members to agree to accept the Disney offer and to use some of the money to set up a charitable fund which, for tax purposes, must be approved before the autumn. The idea is to give money to charities that have nothing to do with Lord Lamont, charities of the kind that A.A. Milne supported generously when he was alive.

Scarce had the confidential letter about this been received than some members began to react in a way not unknown to a certain grey donkey. "That's what I call bouncing," said Eeyore when confronted with Tigger in the story Eeyore Joins the Game. "Taking people by surprise. Very unpleasant habit."

"I don't see why Tigger should come into my little corner of the forest and bounce there."



A member peers from the Garrick Club before lunch yesterday and (top left) an illustration from the Winnie the Pooh books

Brian Harris

Nor do the Eeyores of the Garrick see why their committee insists on bouncing about. "It is being seen as an outrageous act of gross arrogance," said one member. What is?

"The presumption that they can hand out the members' money in this fashion," he said. In what fashion? "In that fastidious," he explained before laying out some other ideas. Why not use money to increase the availability for bedrooms, to support an arts fund and to reduce the fees which run to about £250 per member per year?

Hmm. Now that latter idea is the kind of charity that every member might support. But the Eeyores do not seem to have the full story. This, as general committee chairman Anthony Butcher notes with some exasperation, was set out in the letter. He agrees that the timing is less than ideal. "I don't want to have the meeting then any more than anyone does but we can't control Disney's timetable," he says. The deal also depends on whether Disney gets approval from the US Congress to lengthen copyright in this case.

But, given that the US Congress does give its approval and that the deal is done, then this is what the general committee proposes to do with what Mr Butcher believes will be £30 million after tax. First some money is to be reserved for the upkeep of the club. "A cock-shy is about £10 million from the money," said Mr Butcher. Next a charitable fund would be set up but would be capped at £8 million.

That leaves £12 million. The first reaction to this in Clubland, where it seems that all greed is relative, is that any pay-out would be considerably less than

the £35,000 being pocketed by RAC members. So it would be. But Mr Butcher goes further than that. He says he is quite positive that Garrick Club members would not want their personal bank accounts added to in any such way. "My sense is that it is real reluctance amongst members for there to be any share-out at all," he says.

Why is this? "Well, because they are nice chaps I suppose," he said. Oh really, I say. "Well I can't think they would be frightened of you in the press." But, I say, many of your members are the press. At this point Mr

Butcher looks back to what A.A. Milne might have thought. "I'm pretty certain that when he did this he thought it might be able to buy a couple of cases of vintage port or, say, in the case of Westminster, have an extra helping of plum duff at Christmas," he said.

What? "In other words he wasn't thinking in terms of the sort of money that is available."

Rupert Hart-Davis once recalled Milne at the Garrick taking gloomy view of most things - Tito and Stalin, to give two examples, but also "most

other people" including his fellow members. Certainly it seems he would have given most of it away, having once said: "The only money which we are never sorry to have spent is the money which we have given away."

But back to Pooh. What would he do? "If anyone knows anything about anything," he notes, "it's Owl who knows something about something or my name is not Winnie-the-Pooh which it is. So there you are." And Owl? Well, he is definitely a member of the Garrick, but he's not talking - yet.

THE GARRICK CLUB: A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE CONNECTED AND THE FLATULENT

■ Founded in 1831, primarily for actors who could not obtain membership of the likes of St James and Pall Mall. Most members are now in the law, journalism and advertising.

■ The tie is ghastly pink and green (supposed to be cucumber and salmon, sported right by Sir Robin Day). "The great thing about the Garrick tie is that it goes with absolutely nothing," said a member.

■ It takes seven years to become a member.

■ Members voted against women joining in 1992. "I think the fear is the sort of women who would join," said one man. They'll be thrusters - the middle-aged and late-middle-aged journalists who want to get on. They'll be the clever barristers and they'll be Edwina Currie, you know. This is the problem."

■ One of the club's most famous rows was between Thackeray and Dickens (right). The latter was upset over an indiscreet remark made by Thackeray of Dickens's affair with Ellen Ternan. To get his own back, Dickens backed the literary journalist Edmund Yates who had written a rude column about Thackeray. Dickens ended up resigning.

■ Famous names who have been blackballed include Jeremy Paxman (right), whose opponents refused to say why they didn't want the mild-mannered journalist in their club, and

Bernard Levin (right), rejected for criticising Lord Justice Goddard (the man who sentenced Derek Bentley to death). Other members who have been blackballed include Brian Wenham, former director of BBC TV programmes.

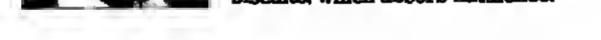
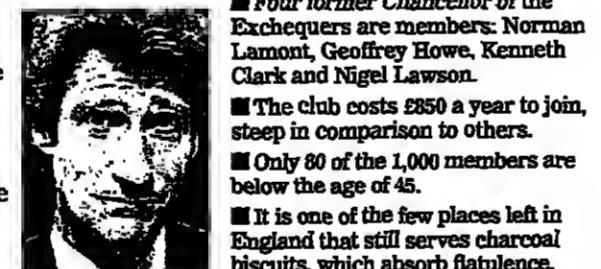
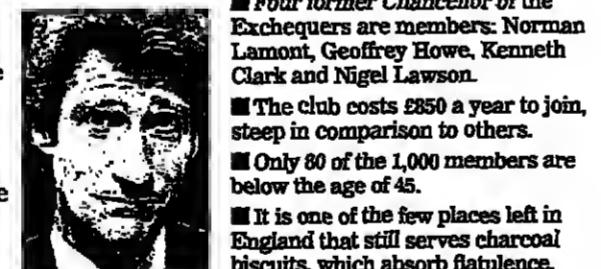
■ Women are allowed to eat lunch in the Milne Room (better known as the Pooh Room) which is painted a sickly pink.

■ Four former Chancellors of the Exchequer are members: Norman Lamont, Geoffrey Howe, Kenneth Clark and Nigel Lawson.

■ The club costs £250 a year to join, steep in comparison to others.

■ Only 60 of the 1,000 members are below the age of 45.

■ It is one of the few places left in England that still serves charcoal biscuits, which absorb flatulence.



Four Britons named among top actors of the decade

BY DIANA BLAMIRE

FOUR British names have been included in a list of Hollywood's 25 greatest actors of the decade.

Sir Anthony Hopkins, Ralph Fiennes, Daniel Day-Lewis and Gary Oldman are amongst those to appear on the *Entertainment Weekly* magazine list, jointly topped by Oscar-winner Kevin Spacey and Samuel L. Jackson.

They join such Hollywood luminaries as Robert De Niro, Harvey Keitel, Tom Hanks and Robin Williams.

The authors decided to exclude "pure movie stars" such as Mel Gibson, Harrison Ford and Brad Pitt, who are described as "larger-than-life screen idols whose charisma outstrips their ability to disappear into any role". The magazine adds: "They're great, but this list isn't about star quality." Women are not included on

THE TOP 25 HOLLYWOOD ACTORS OF THE NINETIES

Kevin Bacon	Sir Anthony Hopkins
Alec Baldwin	Samuel L Jackson
Jaff Bridges	Harvey Keitel
Nicolas Cage	Kevin Kline
Daniel Day-Lewis	William H Macy
Robert De Niro	John Malkovich
Johnny Depp	Gary Oldman
Robert Downey Jr	Sean Penn
Ralph Fiennes	Kevin Spacey
Laurence Fishburne	Denzel Washington
Morgan Freeman	Robin Williams
Tom Hanks	James Woods
Ed Harris	Entertainment Weekly

the list, but will appear on a separate one to be published by the magazine in due course. *Entertainment Weekly* heaps praise on Sir Anthony Hopkins, stating: "Hopkins is the sort of subtly subtle actor who makes you glad there will always be a Wales."

It says of Gary Oldman: "When he's mean, he's magnificent, arousing audiences with performances as sharp and cool as icicles."

The list omits "greying greats" such as Jack Nicholson because only actors whose best work - whether as leading men

or supporting actors - can be seen currently are eligible. The compiler also concentrated on men whose best work has been primarily in film, which means Broadway stars and TV greats are missing.

The magazine explains through its website exactly how it whittled down Hollywood's greatest names to a mere 25. "Ultimately, we chose those actors who have most moved us over the past 10 years, whose presence on the screen always makes us perk up in our seats, whose technical finesse never fails to impress us," it says.

The authors also admit, however, that "choosing the 25 best actors of the 1990s was by far the most challenging task inscribing we've ever attempted. Not just because it's so subjective - one man's killer performance is another's tour de crap - but also because there's a tremendous amount of extraordinary talent these days."

Last year, Manoranjan Ghosh, a 68-year-old farmer from West Bengal, underwent a simple operation to remove a blinding cataract. This photograph was taken just hours after surgery, when his eye was still sensitive to the light.

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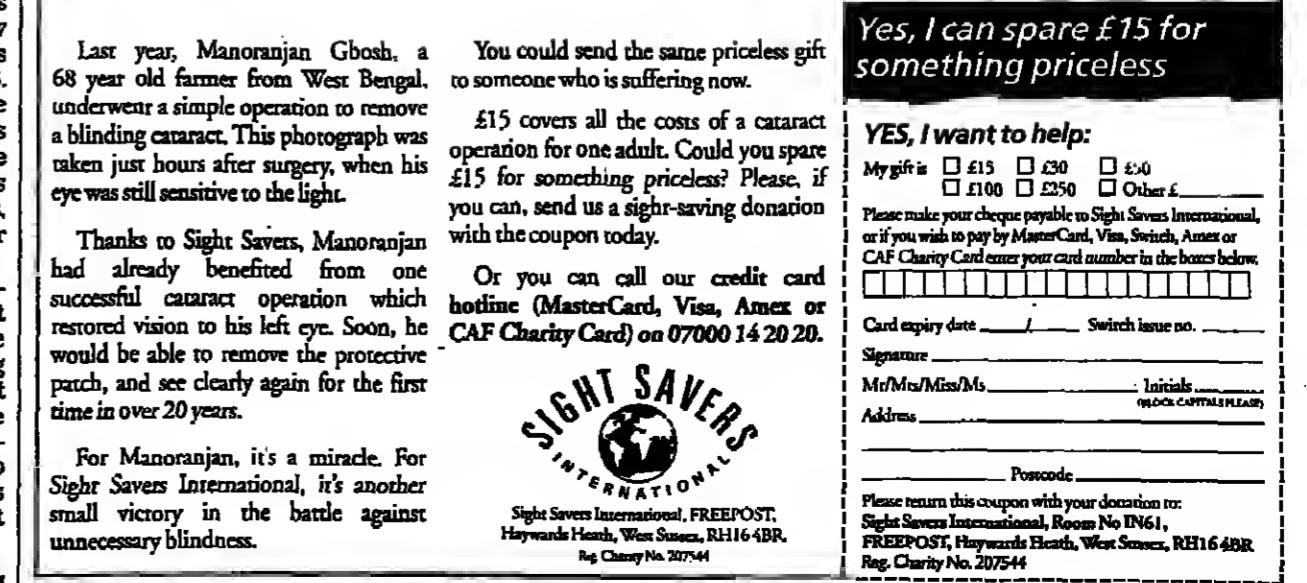
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The Shayler Case: Former intelligence officer threatening to reveal all on the Internet was tracked all the way to Paris

Ex-MI5 agent was watched constantly

DAVID SHAYLER, the former MI5 agent being held in a French prison, had been under surveillance by the intelligence services since leaving Britain, it was claimed last night.

After he moved to France at the end of last year, an official source said that operatives had been monitoring his moves.

"There was no difficulty posed by trying to find him. I don't think there was ever a problem vis à vis 'Where is David Shayler?'" said the source.

Mr Shayler, 32, was arrested at 8pm on Saturday evening in Paris after returning to his hotel from a bar where he had been watching his favourite team, Middlesbrough, playing at home to Newcastle.

At his hotel, the Golden Tulip in St Germain, Mr Shayler was

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

met by members of the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire – the French equivalent of the Special Branch. After questioning at the Ministry of the Interior he was taken to the Prison de la Santé.

Mr Tomlinson, a former SAS officer who was arrested by French security police hours before Mr Shayler had been talking to reporters from another Sunday newspaper. He had earlier been speaking to Ms Machon by telephone and it is understood that at some point during the weekend he may also have spoken to Mr Shayler.

There was speculation last night that security officers may have been alerted to Mr Shayler's whereabouts by intercepting phonecalls he was making to reporters.

The BBC said last night the

Frost team were speaking to Mr Shayler by mobile phone but that they were not aware where he was staying.

"The location for the interview had still to be arranged when he was arrested," said a spokesman.

"I do not think we knew where he was staying. Even if people had intercepted the calls they would not have heard anything of any use," he said.

The claim that Mr Shayler may have been under surveillance for many months holds credence.

The French authorities would have been well aware of Mr Shayler's self-imposed exile in France and several officers from MI5 – the foreign intelligence service – are attached to the British Embassy in Paris.



David Shayler, with girlfriend Annie Machon, was being watched since last year Alastair Miller/Sunday Times

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Shayler: the unanswered questions

Who is David Shayler?

A 32-year-old former MI5 officer who revealed secrets about the intelligence service published in a series of newspaper articles last year and then fled across the Channel into self-imposed exile.

What has he revealed in the past?

He said that MI5 kept files on Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, when they were student activists.

He also claimed that intelligence about a planned bomb attack on the Israeli embassy in London was not passed on.

A High Court injunction prevents detailed publication of the allegations in the UK.

Why was Mr Shayler arrested on Saturday?

Though the Home Office will not comment on the reason there is widespread speculation it was linked to his plan to publish MI5 secrets on the Internet.

It has been claimed that among these secrets were details of a British plan to assassinate the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, and allegations of a breakdown in communication between Britain's intelligence services which allowed the IRA to carry out a number of "spectacular" major bomb attacks.

What will happen to Mr Shayler now?

In the first instance, Mr Shayler's case will go before the Chambre d'Accusation, which must decide whether there is a prima facie case for his extradition to Britain. The British government has 40 days to present its evidence and the Chambre must then make its decision within 45 days.

Under French extradition procedure – although not formally under French law – the Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, decides whether or not to follow the Chambre's advice.

Once he has pronounced, the defence lawyers can, in theory, lodge appeals right up to the Conseil d'Etat – the final constitutional appeal court.

Under a strict interpretation of French law, Mr Shayler could be returned to Britain while such appeals were being prepared and heard. Under French legal tradition, however, the suspect is always held in France until the appeals process is exhausted.

Who is Richard Tomlinson and how is he linked?

Richard Tomlinson, a former SAS member, has just finished serving a 12-month sentence for breaching the Official Secrets Act when he sent a synopsis on a book to an Australian publisher.

He travelled to France last week without a passport and was arrested on Saturday night. Mr Tomlinson, who was released without charge, has said he has no plans to pursue his book deal. He dismissed speculation that he was in Paris to co-operate on a book with Mr Shayler.

ANDREW BUNCOMBE AND LINUS GREGORIADIS

IN BRIEF

British expert is killed, training Angolans to defuse landmines

A BRITISH landmines expert has died while working in war-ravaged Angola, the Foreign Office confirmed yesterday. Justin Bailey, 27, was helping teach Angolans to defuse mines when he was killed in an explosion.

His body has been flown back to Britain and a memorial service is planned in his home city of Gloucester. A spokeswoman for the British Embassy in Angola said Mr Bailey was working for the Norwegian People's Aid organisation and his death was "a tragic accident".

House-price slowdown confirmed

THE slowdown in house prices was highlighted by figures from the Halifax, the biggest mortgage lender. The price index showed a 0.6 per cent rise in July, against 1 per cent in June. But compared to last year, house prices were 6 per cent higher. The Halifax said the figures showed prices were still growing at a moderate pace and predicted the pattern would continue over the next few months.

Fourteen held in dawn raids

FOURTEEN people were arrested in a series of dawn raids across southern England which resulted in the seizure of drugs, weapons and more than £100,000 in cash. Around 200 officers took part in the raids at over 20 addresses in South London, Essex, Kent and Dorset. It followed a year long intelligence operation by the National Crime Squad into a variety of alleged crimes including armed robbery and drug trafficking.

Warning on contaminated beer

POLICE warned drinkers after thieves snatched a lorry loaded with contaminated beer. The crates of Caffreys were recalled after being contaminated with cleaning fluid but the lorry was stolen in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The beer was not deadly but could "make you violently sick and could be harmful if taken in large quantities".

Teen risk

Let's ta

Pilot who helped Nadir faces jail

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

A PILOT was yesterday facing a prison sentence after being convicted of helping the fugitive businessman Asil Nadir flee from British justice.

Peter Dimond, 56, arranged a flight out of Britain in 1993 for the tycoon who was facing charges of theft and false accounting following the collapse of his £1.3bn Polly Peck empire three years earlier.

The pair flew to Northern Cyprus, beyond the reach of British jurisdiction, and toasted Nadir's escape with champagne and caviar.

Dimond was yesterday remanded on bail for pre-sentence reports after he was convicted of doing acts tending or intending to pervert the course of justice between January and May 1993. He had denied the charge and showed no emotion when the jury announced their verdict after five hours of deliberations.

Afterwards, the Serious Fraud Office confirmed that it still intended to proceed against Nadir if he ever returns to British jurisdiction.

The court heard that it was Dimond's sense of "fair play" which led him to help Nadir, whose firm ball terms prevented him from leaving the country. The businessman told Dimond that he was being hounded by the Serious Fraud Office and the administrators to the trustees appointed to Polly Peck.

Nadir told the pilot of his arrest, that his mail was being intercepted, and of the raids on his office and home which resulted in his documents being seized. The only way to clear his name would be to get to Northern Cyprus to collect his files so that he could prepare his defence, he said.

Dimond, who did not know Nadir very well, listened intently as he recounted his troubles in the garden of his London home. They spoke outside because Nadir was afraid of being hugged.

He said he believed Nadir had been unfairly treated by the British authorities and needed time to prepare his case. "I always thought it would be sorted. I never doubted his integrity," he told the court.

Julian Bevan, QC, prosecuting, told the court that Dimond



POLLY PECK'S RISE AND FALL

1983: Asil Nadir comes to London and works in the family clothing business in the East End of London.

1970s: He buys a cash and carry clothing business, Wearwell, which he floats on the stock market, and takes a stake in ailing clothing firm Polly Peck.

1981 and 1983: Polly Peck wins Qua'an's Awards for Exports.

1989: Nadir raises £257m to buy Del Monte, making Polly Peck the world's third largest fruit distributor.

1990: Polly Peck expands into an electronics, fresh fruit and leisure empire worth £2bn and becomes the first western company to buy a Japanese corporation, the Sansui electrical group. But confidence in his empire declines when Nadir changes his mind about taking the company private.

September 1990: Confidence falls further after a raid by the Serious Fraud Office on a company linked to Nadir wiping £1bn off Polly Peck shares overnight.

October 1990: Polly Peck calls in administrators to run the group as a going concern despite debts of £1.3bn.

December 1990: Nadir is arrested at Heathrow and charged with stealing more than £150m from the company.

1993: Nadir skips bail and flees to Northern Cyprus.

did not know Nadir well, but had said he believed he would return to this Britain and stand trial.

Dimond, a Bernardo's boy, had always wanted to be a pilot but he had been rejected by the RAF. He managed to obtain a flying licence, but made his living buying and selling cars.

By the early 1990s, the court heard, he was a small businessman feeling the effects of the recession. His wife, Hopie, had become friendly with Nadir's mistress Lesley Ellwood and the couple occasionally socialised.

Dimond said he saw the change which had come over the tycoon after the Polly Peck collapse. He allegedly thought Nadir had been "degraded to the point of desperation."

Mr Bevan added that Dimond "saw Nadir as a man who had been unfairly treated, a shadow of his former self who walked with a stick and had a grey pallor – not a man he had known before."

He told officers: "I am a reasonable fair-minded person. I felt he was not getting the opportunity to present a defence.

"I know in my own life, if that happened to me, I would want to back off and go somewhere where I could have peace and quiet, and put my house in order."

On 4 May 1993 Nadir disguised in a hat and sunglasses, was flown out from Compton Abbas airfield. The pilot was not told the identity of his passenger and did not recognise him in his disguise.

Dimond accompanied him mainly to reassure the businessman, who was more used to travelling in luxury jets and was nervous about the tiny plane.

Dimond was given £300 in £50 notes for the hire of the plane, and an extra £100 for petrol money for himself.

They first flew to Beauvais, near Paris, and then in a jet, via Vienna and Istanbul, to Northern Cyprus where Nadir remains to this day.

Dimond said he had not known that a plane would be waiting for Nadir in Beauvais, but decided to accompany him anyway.

He arrived without so much as a toothbrush, but after arriving in northern Cyprus, he "soon learned of the uproar and realised that if he was to return, he was going to face trouble."

He stayed for five years before leaving last January. He was arrested in Haverfordwest, in Wales, after agreeing to drive a Range Rover to Dublin. He told police: "I am the person who flew Asil Nadir out of the country. I have no regrets for doing this."

But the man who had only ever wanted to fly planes was finally brought down by his own ambition. Nadir talked about restoring his fortunes and said that when he got his charter airline off the ground there could be a job for Dimond.

Instead Dimond ended up spending five years in exile before returning to face a prison sentence.



Peter Dimond leaving court yesterday after being convicted of helping the fugitive Asil Nadir (above left) flee the country

Photograph: Simone Smith

Tycoon happy in his exile home

FOR A man who once commanded a \$4bn lemons-to-electronics empire, Asil Nadir appears surprisingly content in exile. One of his few sources of irritation is the persistent description of him in the media as a fugitive. He says a fugitive is someone who is fleeing to a country that is not his own. He was born in northern Cyprus and his mother, his sister and his childhood friends are there. From his struggling Turkish Cypriot beginnings Nadir showed his entrepreneurial spirit early. Aged six he was selling newspapers on the streets of Famagusta.

The family moved to the East End of London in 1963 and set up a rag trade company. Nadir was quick to branch out, buying cash-and-carry clothing business in Commercial Road and, through a series of deals, expanded his empire to the now notorious Polly Peck.

By its peak in the summer of 1990, Polly Peck was worth £2bn and employed 30,000. But its collapse soon after left him bankrupt and facing £30m fraud and theft charges.

In 1993, he fled to northern Cyprus, which is not recognised by the international community and has no extradition treaties with the UK.

He enjoys government support in the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and lives there quite openly. President Denktaş gave the UK short shrift over its request to have Nadir handed back when he fled Britain. But the 57-year-old divorcee (he prefers the term bachelor) has not been idle during his exile. A year after his arrival he was operating two hotels and was already at work on a third, and controls northern Cyprus's biggest newspaper and a packaging group.

KATE WATSON-SMYTH

Teenage girl smokers risk eating disorders

BY GLENDA COOPER
Social Affairs Correspondent

TEENAGE GIRLS who use cigarettes as a slimming aid are more likely to develop eating disorders, a new study has found.

Girls are "trading pounds off their weight for years off their lives," warned researchers. They said that while teenage smokers on average lost a stone in weight, they were also twice as likely to be bulimic.

The study of 3,000 girls found that those who smoked were 30 per cent more likely to be overweight and prone to eat too much. Losing weight was given as the main reason for taking up the habit; a quarter said that smoking made them feel less hungry.

The majority of smokers – whatever their weight – also wanted to be considerably thinner than they actually were, and in a further attempt to keep their weight down, were twice as likely to vomit frequently after overeating.

The Cancer Research Campaign study, published today in the BMA's Postgraduate Medical Journal, assessed 1,936 girls in London and 832 girls in Ottawa, Canada, aged 11 to 18.

The study showed about 20 per cent of all the girls smoked



Teenage girls light up to lose weight and gain image

and the habit was strongest among 15 and 16-year-olds, a quarter of whom were smokers in both London and Ottawa.

Girls were up to three times more likely to take up smoking after starting their periods, when normal changes in body shape often lead to worries about weight.

Nearly one-third of all the girls interviewed thought they would put on weight and eat

more if they quit smoking. Those who drank alcohol were also more likely to smoke.

The smokers reported weight losses of a stone or more since puberty which they associated with smoking. "[The girls] often believe [smoking] will help them in their goal of weight control and weight loss," said the chief researcher Professor Arthur Crisp, from St George's Hospital Medical

School, London. "The evidence is that it works."

"A great number of perfectly ordinary schoolgirls are showing they are unhappy with how they look."

More worrying was the fact that girls were using cigarettes to control their weight and were trading the pounds "for years off their life," he added.

"This study portrays a desperately sad picture of teenage girls' self-image and their unsuccessful attempts to attain an idealised, lower weight," said Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the CRC. "But smoking is not the way to do it."

Banning tobacco advertising would benefit, but families should also help, convincing girls that changes of shape are natural after puberty, he said.

The anti-smoking group Ash (Action on Smoking and Health) called on the tobacco industry to halt youth-oriented marketing immediately. "For some teenage girls smoking has more in common with desperate conditions such as anorexia and bulimia than it does with girl power," said director Clive Bates. "The tragedy of smoking is that the outward defiant and independent face of the young smoker often conceals terrible teenage anxiety and self-loathing."

their parents should be the main source of sex education, followed by teachers. However, embarrassed parents shy away from the task, or others lack expertise because of their own poor sex education.

During the FPA week, entitled Get Sexwise, 100 parents will have the chance to talk about their concerns at a seminar organised by the FPA. A free booklet – Talking to your child about sex – will also be available from Tesco pharmacies throughout August.

"Recent research concludes

that young people feel their sex education is too little, too late and too biological and that the people they most want to talk to about sex and relationships are parents and carers," said Anne Weyman, chief executive of the FPA.

She added: "The FPA is now putting in place a strategy which, over the next three years, will actively support parents and carers and professionals working with them, with information, training and advice to make this part of parenting a little easier."

Let's talk about sex, says minister

BY GLENDA COOPER

PARENTS COULD reduce the number of teenage pregnancies and abortions by talking openly with their children about sex, ministers said yesterday.

At the start of the Family Planning Association's Sexual Health Week, public health minister Tessa Jowell warned that teenage mothers were more common in families where sex and relationships were not talked about.

Britain currently has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in western Europe, with 1 per cent of girls under 16

reached this figure.

A survey of 11- and 16-year-olds revealed that most thought

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THE RAREST OF THE RARE: THE MOST PRIZED TARGETS FOR ANIMAL SMUGGLERS				
	GILA MONSTER	INDIAN STAR TORTOISE	LEAR'S MACAW	SPOTTED AMERICAN PARROT
What are they:	Venomous lizard about 50cm long. Stout-bodied with black and pink blotches of bands and bead-like scales. Feeds on small mammals, birds and eggs.	Its shell is covered in a lattice of yellow radiating lines which form an almost perfect camouflage. Up to 28cm in shell length, it feeds upon leaves, flowers and fallen fruits.	Also called a Duck-billed parrot because its beak is very wide and flat. It has a crest on its head and a long tail.	Deep-blue, with wings and back in a contrasting richer blue. Has a wing span of up to 42 inches. Also known as the Indigo Macaw.
Original habitat:	Named after the Gila River Basin in America. It is found in the south-western United States and northern Mexico.	Sri Lanka and peninsular India. A typical clutch comprises seven eggs which take 150 days or more to incubate.	Dry limestone landscapes in the Pernambuco and Bahia regions of north-eastern Brazil.	Subtropical areas of South America. Most common in the eastern Andes of Bolivia. Migrates with birds, especially the Chachalaca.
Rarity:	Rare. It is one of only two species of venomous lizards.	Endangered but now being bred in captivity in increasing numbers. Juveniles are at high risk from predators and increased mechanisation of agriculture is reducing their habitat.	There are only 100 pairs left in the wild. They are found in Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay and Venezuela.	Rarest of all parrots. It was thought to be extinct. The first proven field observations did not occur until 1978. The areas where the 98 remaining birds are found are extremely remote and hardly explored even now.
Value:	Well over £1,000 each.	£1,000 each.	£20,000 Double If sold in Conservation Exports goes up even more to £100,000.	£80,000 each.
Who buys them and why:	The reptile trade is one of the fastest growing sectors of the pet industry and the Gila Monster is now highly fashionable, particularly among London collectors.	Huge demand among collectors, many of whom may not realise trade is illegal. Sometimes unwittingly sold in pet shops.	Sold to falcons, especially in Germany and Scotland. They are sometimes used to hunt wild falcons because "soft-bred" techniques are highly sought after. Exceptionally rare, sold to Arab falconers.	Collectors know that any dealings in these birds are illegal. The most prized bird in the illegal trade is parrots. Three were seized this year during Customs raids in Yorkshire.

Animal smuggling is the most lucrative crime after drugs

THE illegal trafficking of exotic and endangered species is now the biggest international criminal activity after the drugs trade, according to Interpol.

A senior officer said yesterday that the growing illicit market for rare animals and plants was worth £4bn a year. Some of the most sought-after species are being sold illegally through British pet shops.

Paul Andrews, environmental crime specialist at Interpol, which is based at the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said: "Britain is one of the major purchasing countries for these rare species and we have crim-

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

inals here brokering sales for the markets in America and Japan."

British species are also being targeted. Dutch and German police have warned that organised gangs of traders in birds of prey are taking carefully planned trips to Scotland to raid the nests of golden eagles, red kites and peregrine falcons. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said last night that there had been a marked increase in such thefts, with 40 peregrine falcons stolen

last year. The world's most wanted rare bird is the Lear's macaw, of which only 98 are believed to still exist.

Three of the birds - which are worth around £20,000 each - were found in raids on houses in Yorkshire in April.

It is believed they were brought to Britain from Australia, South America and Malaysia.

During the raids, Customs officers also seized 10 palm cockatoos and several yellow-tailed and red-tailed black cockatoos, both endangered species, and worth up to £10,000.

One of the most frequently smuggled exotic birds is the hyacinth macaw, which will fetch around £20,000. The traders estimate that they need to smuggle 12 eggs to have a good chance of one surviving.

Many of the bird smugglers wear customised jackets beneath their outer clothing. Each jacket contains up to 20 pouches in which the rare eggs are placed in the knowledge that they will not show up on X-ray machines.

The illegal trade in tortoises is also buoyant. Customs officers at Dover and Heathrow airport have seized India Star

tortoises, which are usually smuggled in hand luggage and can be worth £1,000 each.

The RSPB said last night that German falconers were believed to be mainly responsible for the loss of 40 peregrine falcons reported stolen last year. There are only 1,300 pairs in the UK.

Mr Shorrock, investigations officer for the RSPB, said: "During the last two breeding seasons there seems to have been a renewed interest in our native peregrines, particularly the ones from Scotland. There are a lot of indications that a number of birds are being

taken and laundered on the Continent, especially in Germany."

The thieves often come in camper vans, equipped with incubators run from the vehicle's generator. They take the birds back to the Continent and pass them off as captive-bred.

Mr Shorrock said that the internal UK market for peregrines had almost died out following the prosecution of a few dealers through DNA testing of the birds.

But falconry is highly popular in Germany, where dealers also have contacts with Arab falconers prepared to pay thou-

sands of pounds for wild-bred birds. He said: "German and Dutch falconers are coming over to Britain themselves but there are a number of people here who are willing to help for money." Two men from the Netherlands are facing charges in relation to alleged attempts to buy peregrine falcons in contravention of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Later this year Interpol is due to publish a report on the international trade in primates based on a world-wide police survey of reported thefts and seizures.

Assisted death given bishops' blessing

BY CLARE GARNER

CERTAIN FORMS of assisted death, including withdrawing food and water from people in a persistent vegetative state and increasing the dosage of painkillers for the dying, have been approved by the church.

In response to calls for the legalisation of euthanasia in several countries, Anglican bishops at the Lambeth Conference made a distinction between euthanasia and "withholding, withdrawing, declining or terminating excessive medical treatment, all of which may be consonant with Christian faith in enabling a person to die with dignity".

The Archbishop of Brisbane, the Rt Rev Peter Hollingworth, denied the Church was advocating euthanasia, but said it wanted people to have the right to choose to have treatment withdrawn or withheld "in extremis". While the conference has no legal powers, it has considerable moral authority over the world's 80 million Anglicans.

The definition of the Church's stance on euthanasia has emerged after two weeks debate behind closed doors.

The concluding report declares that "a legitimate moral distinction can be drawn between allowing someone to die and causing that person to die".

It stresses that "euthanasia is not to be equated with such actions as declining or terminating medical treatment where excessive intervention would lead to further or increased suffering and the outcome would be futile".

Archbishop Hollingworth said the church wanted to clear up confusion about means of making death more dignified. Although bishops from Africa and India had described all forms of assisted death as "murder" at the first meeting, they had come round to the idea that there were circumstances where allowing someone to die was the Christian thing to do.

These include taking some one of a life-support machine where there is "no reasonable prospect of recovery" and providing anaesthetics even if the effect may be to hasten death.

However, the bishops' rules out the idea of legislation because of the "virtual impossibility" of preventing abuse, the danger of "a diminution of respect for all human life", and the potential destruction of the "important and delicate trust of the doctor/patient relationship".

Andreas Whittam Smith, Review, page 4

Birds die as Spanish bungle toxic clean-up

THE SPANISH authorities are bungling the clean-up of Europe's biggest nature reserve, which was badly damaged in a massive pollution incident three months ago, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and its Spanish counterpart claimed yesterday.

As a result, they said, the Coto Donana reserve, home to huge populations of waterfowl, ducks and wading birds, is now facing a further threat of major pollution and wildlife mortality.

Millions of tonnes of toxic

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

sludge which has still not been cleaned up will be washed over its marshes and mudflats when the autumn rains arrive.

This pollution is likely when the bird population on the reserve in south-western Spain more than doubles with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of winter visitors from northern Europe such as teal, black-tailed godwits and greylag geese, many from Britain.

The sludge, containing high levels of heavy metals such as arsenic and cadmium, came from a giant iron mine waste reservoir which burst 30 miles upstream from the Donana at the end of April.

It cascaded down the River Guadiana, covering farmlands, olive groves and rice paddies with thick carpet of toxic mud, and badly damaged the marshes which are the ecological core of the area, but was stopped just short of the Doñana National Park itself.

More than 25,000 kilos of dead fish were collected and nearly 2,000 adult birds, chicks, eggs and nests were killed or destroyed - less than initially feared.

However, the clean-up operation is being botched because of a turf war between the regional government of Andalucia in Seville and the national government in Madrid, the RSPB said yesterday in a joint 100-days-on progress report with the Spanish bird protection society SEO the Sociedad Espanola de Ornitoloxia.

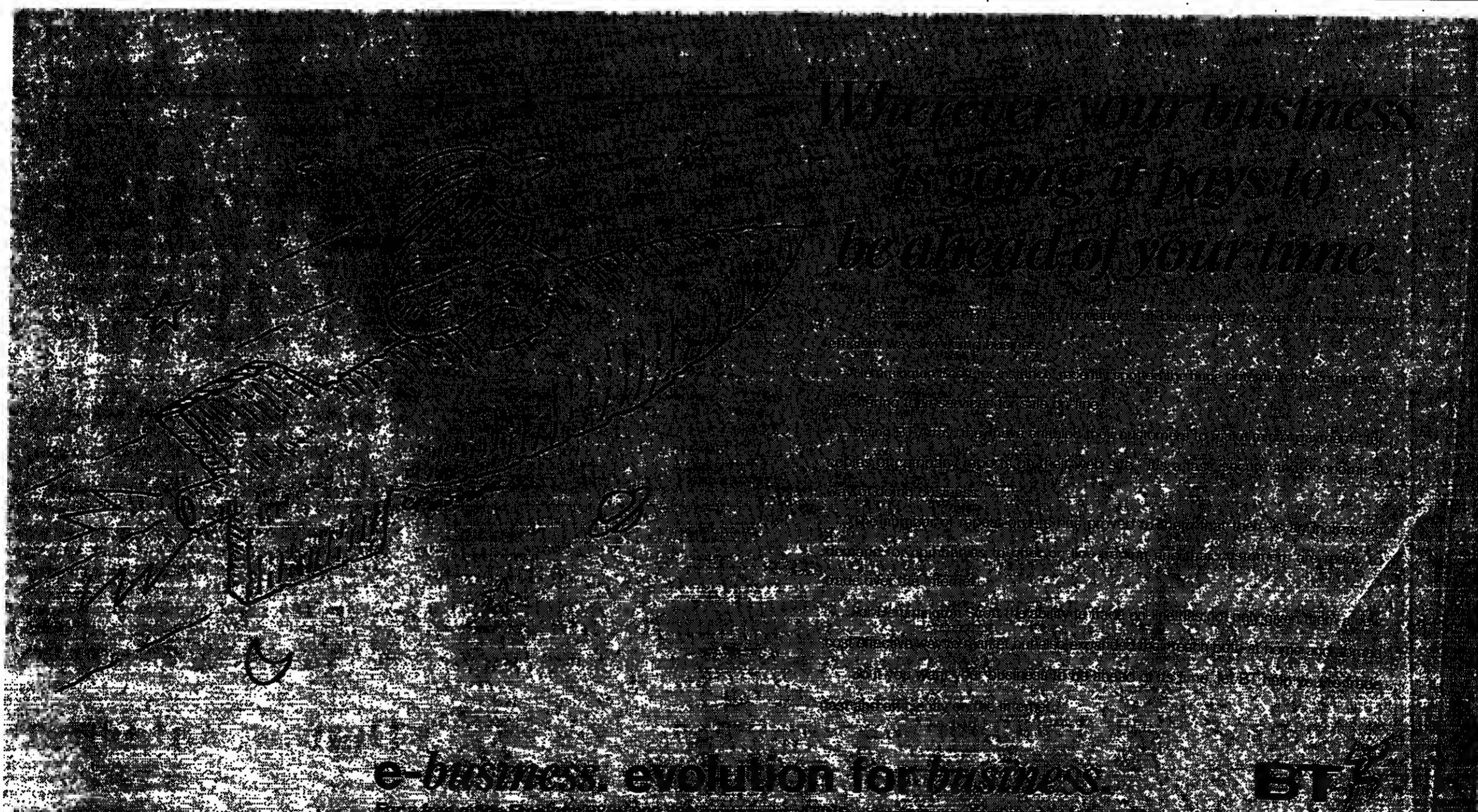
The two administrations have opposing plans for June: still not been recruited, and barely 20 per cent of the sludge has been removed, the societies said.

What remains is becoming more poisonous still owing to the chemical changes taking place, and the toxins are now being absorbed into marshland plants on which the birds feed, said Laurence Rose, head of the RSPB's European department.

In the meantime, 1,500 clean-up workers promised by the Andalucian administration for June have still not been recruited, and barely 20 per cent of the sludge has been removed, the societies said.

"It will be too late now to stop it," he said. "We are praying that it does not rain too hard, although normally the Doñana needs the rain."

The Spanish authorities have messed up the recovery operation by allowing petty politics to get in the way of co-operation.



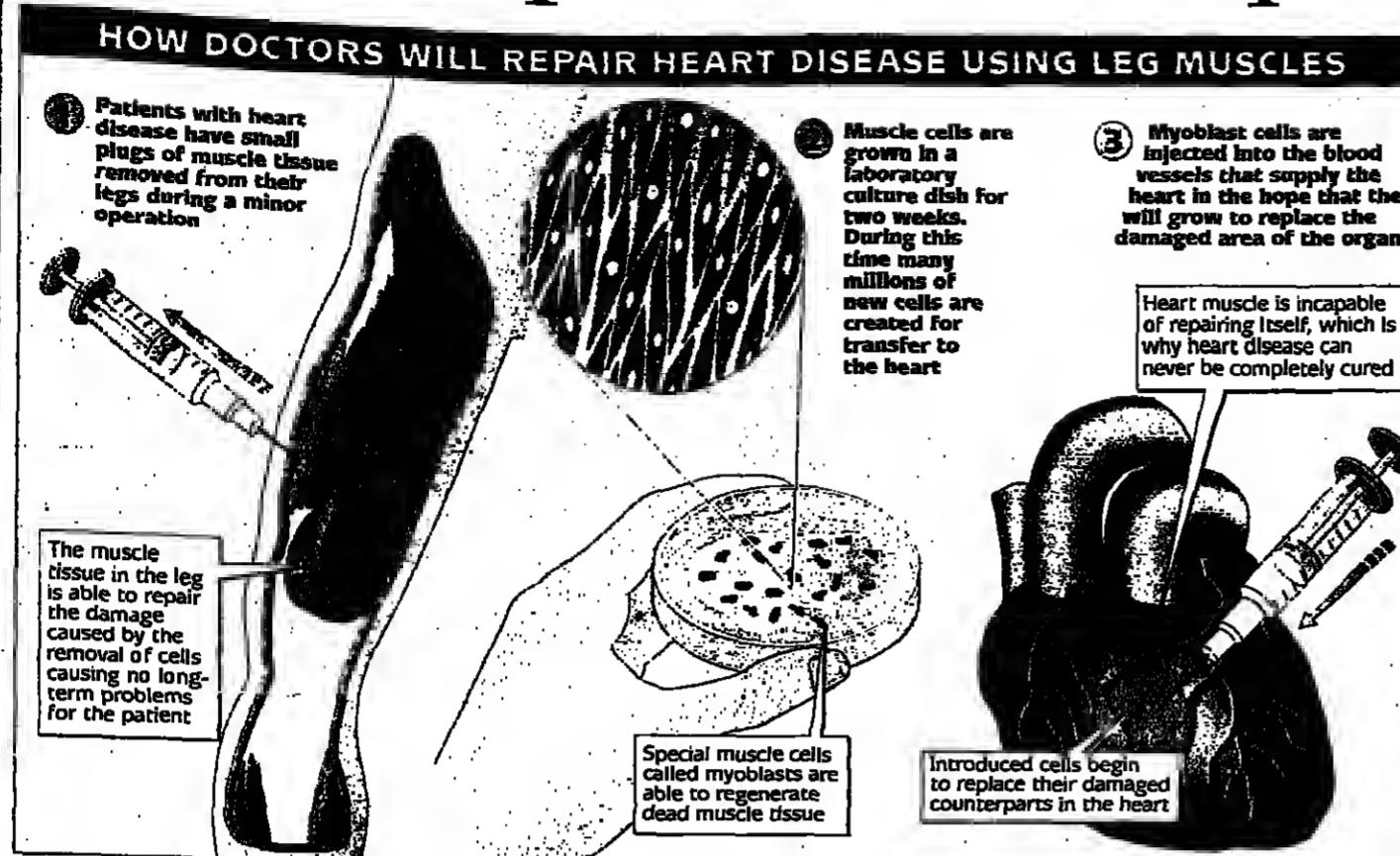
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ROAD DEATH RATES	
Death rates per 100,000 population	NATO
Sweden	1.1
Netherlands	1.3
Finland	1.4
Denmark	1.4
Australia	1.5
Ireland	1.6
Belgium	1.7
Spain	1.8
USA	1.9
Luxembourg	2.0
Portugal	2.1

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Surgeons perfect technique to mend heart tissue



PATIENTS WITH incurable heart disease could soon be treated with injections of their own muscle cells, following a breakthrough in attempts to repair damaged heart tissue.

Victims of heart disease have had to live with the possibility that their heart muscle, once destroyed, can never be mended.

But scientists in the US have revealed that this may not always be the case.

Muscle cells taken from the legs of laboratory animals suffering from heart disease have been shown to take over some of the functions of heart tissue that was effectively dead.

The scientists have demonstrated that skeletal muscle — which is used to move arms and legs — can "learn" how to behave like heart muscle, which is uniquely adapted to perform the millions of regular contractions a heart carries out over the course of a lifetime.

Doris Taylor, a surgeon at the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, said the research marks an important turning point in attempts to repair the damage caused by heart disease, which can result from a poor blood

BY STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

supply to the heart. In research published in the current issue of the journal *Nature Medicine*, Dr Taylor and her colleagues found that cells of leg muscles became attached to the damaged heart and took up many of the characteristics of heart tissue.

"We were excited to see that in many of our test animals, contractions began to approach that of a normal animal," Dr Taylor said.

"When we examined the treated hearts their heart tissue was less stiff than if we had not treated them, meaning the heart could stretch better."

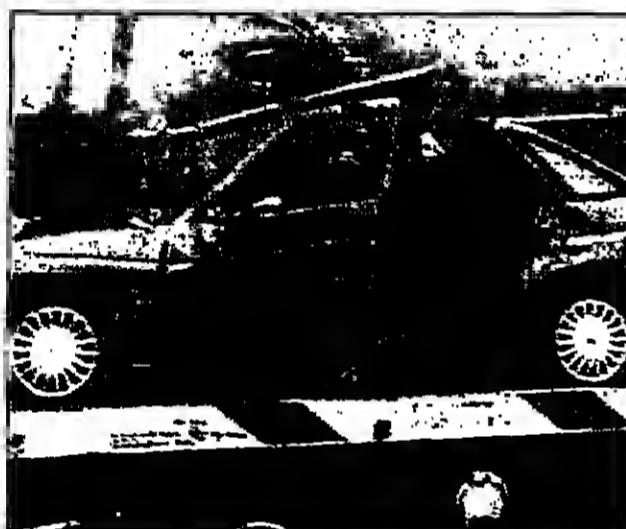
In the experiments, the scientists injected each of 12 rabbits with 10 million muscle cells grown in the laboratory from tiny plugs of tissue from the animals' hindlimbs.

Between three and six weeks later, the scientists found that the injected cells had become organised into a pattern that resembled heart tissue, suggesting that the skeletal muscle had somehow "learned" how to act like heart muscle.

The scientists will try to work with German researchers who have been able to stimulate regrowth of blood vessels to the heart.

Dr Taylor added: "If we could combine new blood vessel formation with new muscle formation, we could for the first time regenerate living heart muscle where there was only dead tissue."

Hire car crash in Spain kills five



The wreck of the hire-car in which the tourists died

MOTORING ORGANISATIONS yesterday warned of the dangers of "hire car holidays" after a head-on collision in Spain claimed the lives of five young British tourists.

Two men and three women, aged 18 to 25, were killed instantly when their hire car and a lorry collided on a coastal road near Valencia on Sunday in torrential rain.

Experts say tourists must exercise extreme care when negotiating unfamiliar and often poorly maintained highways.

"Driving abroad for Britons requires 100 per cent concentration," said an AA spokeswoman. "People have to be even more careful than they would be at home. When abroad, British motorists are often driving on a different side of the road and sometimes in bad weather."

Popular tourist destinations such as Spain and France have twice as many fatal road accidents as Britain. The Spanish death rate is 14 per 100,000 people compared with the UK rate of 6.4 per 100,000. Portugal has the worst rate in Europe at 28.9 deaths per 100,000 people.

Although these casualties occur over 12 months, the summer months often see carnage on Europe's carriageways.

BY RANDEEP RAMESH
Transport Correspondent

Spain's highway department reported that 36 had been killed over the weekend. Another 49 were injured, 23 critically.

Many Spanish factories and stores shut down in August, when temperatures in Madrid often reach 40C. On the first weekend of the month, millions of people head for the mountains or the beaches.

The worst traffic jam came on Saturday morning when Madrid residents headed south-east to the Valencia beaches. The drive normally takes about three hours, but on Saturday it took motorists six, as a 30-mile tailback formed outside Madrid.

The accident which claimed the lives of the British holidaymakers was reportedly the worst crash of last weekend's mayhem.

The five, who were from London and Kent, have been named as Samuel Ota Imaga, 23, Vivian Obiagulu Egesi, 21, Ian Boatman, 21, Jaimini Kara, 21, and Falilat Ohuremlekan Dawodi, 24.

Their Ford hire car was travelling behind another car containing five friends. The group was returning from a day out in Valencia to their holiday apartment in Benidorm.

Hire-car holidays have become increasingly popular with British tourists. But the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents warned holidaymakers to stick to reputable hire car companies.

"We advise holidaymakers to hire only from reputable companies. You may have to pay more, but it is worth it," said Roger Vincent of RoSPA.

"Tourists should also avoid driving in bad weather; at night, and just after arriving hot and tired off the plane."

Local conditions may also make driving difficult.

Mr Vincent said: "Drainage on Spanish roads is poor and we advise any tourists caught in downpours to pull off the road rather than carry on in adverse conditions."

ROAD DEATH RATES

COUNTRY	RATE
Sweden	6.1
UK	6.4
Netherlands	7.6
Finland	7.9
Japan	9.3
Denmark	9.8
Canada	10.3
Australia	10.8
Ireland	12.4
Austria	12.7
Belgium	13.4
Spain	14.0
France	14.7
USA	15.8
Luxembourg	16.7
Germany	22.5
Portugal	28.9

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Surprisingly ordinary prices



Scottish Office: Anger as Gus Macdonald, neither MP nor peer, is made industry minister

Media magnate appointed minister

THE SCOTTISH political establishment was taken by surprise yesterday at the appointment of media tycoon Gus Macdonald as a business and industry minister.

In a further unexpected move, it was revealed that the Queen had given her approval to confer a life peerage on Mr Macdonald, a former Glasgow shipyard engineer.

Opposition parties mounted a noisy tirade with the Scottish National Party (SNP) saying that the ministerial appointment showed "total chaos and panic" in the Scottish Office, while the Liberal Democrats saw it as "slap in the face" for the supposed talent among Labour backbenchers.

Raymond Robertson, Leader of the Scottish Conservatives, claimed Mr Macdonald was being brought in to let Helen Liddell get on with the job of "full-time Labour propagandist on full ministerial pay".

Mrs Liddell was made a deputy to Secretary of State Donald Dewar in last week's reshuffle but with a lighter ministerial load than her predecessor Brian Wilson. Instead, Tony Blair charged her with leading the campaign to turn the nationalist tide and revive Labour's popularity north of the Border.

Mr Macdonald, 57, is one of the most successful figures in contemporary Scotland. After turning to journalism, he rose from circulation manager at the left-wing Tribune magazine to head the Scottish Media Group (SMG) which owns television stations STV and Grampian.

Even then his political aspirations were obvious.

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
in Scotland

and Glasgow newspapers The Herald and Evening Times.

Both newspapers have been pro-devolution but against independence - broadly the same as Labour policy. Mr Macdonald has been involved in Labour Party politics on and off since the 1960s and served on the shipyard executive.

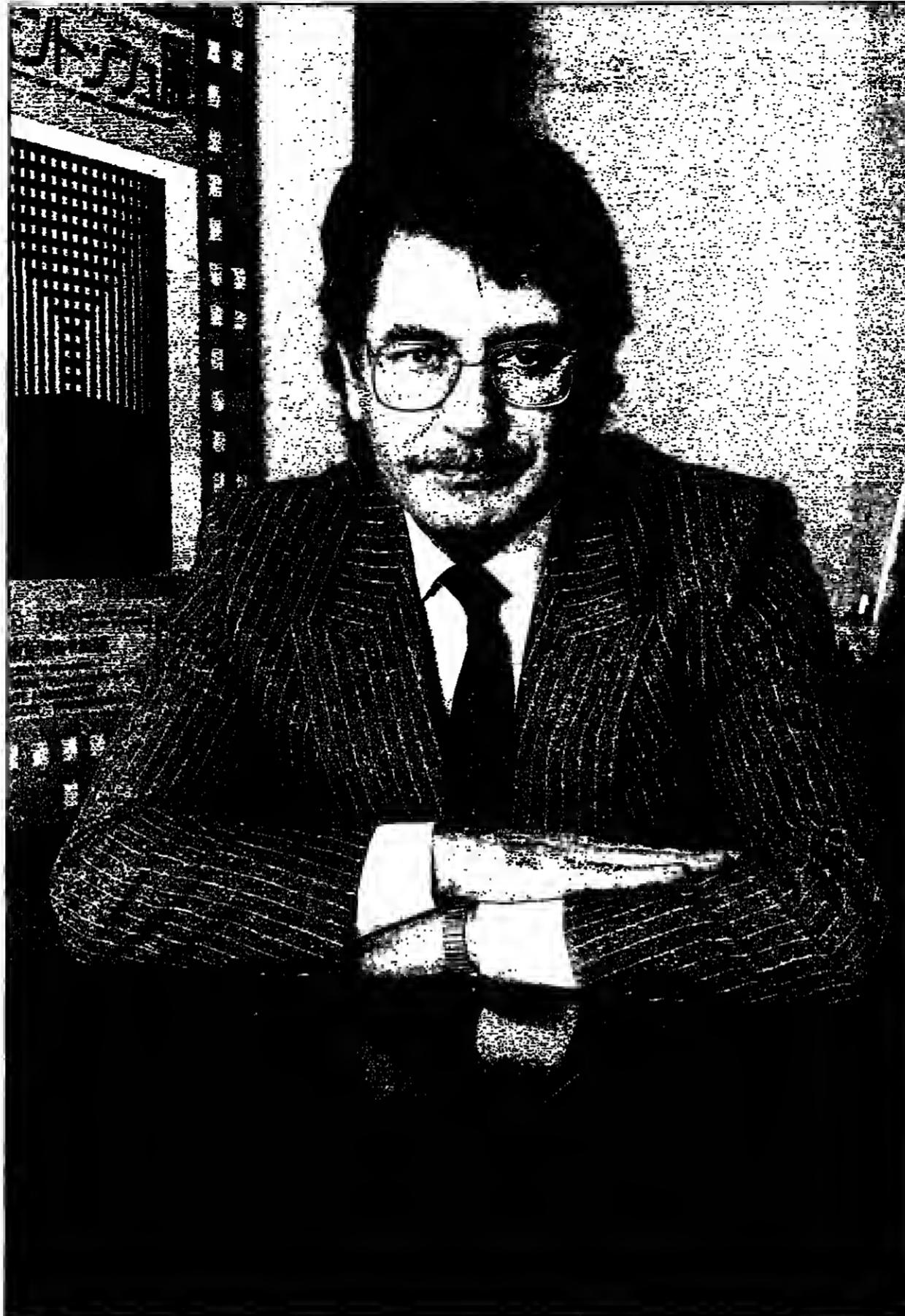
The Scottish Office said Mr Macdonald would be relinquishing his private and public appointments before starting the new job. These include the chairmanship of SMG and of the Cairngorm Partnership, a quango looking at developments in the fragile mountain range, and membership of the boards of Scottish Enterprise and the Bank of Scotland.

Stung by the political capital made out of the interests of other businessmen-ministers, Mr Dewar emphasised that Mr Macdonald would also dispose of his shareholdings or place them in a blind trust. He will have the fairly lowly rank of Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State and be made a peer in the autumn. The post will be unpaid.

Though eyebrows are always raised when Prime Ministers appoint people to government from beyond Westminster, it is not unconstitutional.

Mr Macdonald looked forward to helping to turn Scotland into a "knowledge-based economy". "In my working life I have been through many career changes - from shipbuilding to newspapers to the world of broadcasting," he said.

Gus Macdonald, Labour's new Under-Secretary of State for business and industry at the Scottish Office



No mean feat for a Clydeside shipfitter

THE NEW Scottish Office minister, media mogul Gus Macdonald, began his working life in 1974 as an apprentice marine fitter in the dying Clyde shipyards. His works "gang" included Alex Ferguson, manager of Manchester United, Jimmy Reid, former union leader, and the comedian Billy Connolly.

Even then his political aspirations were obvious.

BY SAMANTHA POLING

But there were no newsroom vacancies. Foot said he had journalists coming out of his ears and what he really needed was a circulation manager. Using a Lambretta scooter and ensuring personal delivery to all the print unions branches in Fleet Street, Macdonald increased circulation

by 20 per cent. His top regional sales force consisted of two students in Wales - Neil Kinnoch and his girlfriend Glens.

Macdonald's television debut was with Granada's flagship current affairs programme, World in Action, working two years as a reporter.

The turning point came in 1985 when he was 45. His bosses at Granada suggested he

move into management as director of programmes.

Unimpressed, Macdonald chose to return home and became director of programmes at Scottish Television with an understanding he would have a good chance of becoming managing director. At his first press conference in Glasgow he told reporters he planned to "confine tartan and hay bales

to history". His greatest achievement was to retain unopposed the ITV licence for central Scotland with a bid of just £2,000 a year.

It was no miracle. Macdonald spent £2 million optioning every independent producer of consequence in Scotland, so no one from south of the border could get a toe-hold in the franchise.

'The third way has lost its way'

GOVERNMENT FAILURE to stem the rising welfare bill is proof of the collapse of Tony Blair's "third way", the shadow chancellor, Francis Maude, said last night.

He suggested in a speech to the Social Market Foundation that ministers were shunning the Tories' tax reduction "first way" and reverting to Labour's traditional "second way" - "tax and spend".

"The idea that there is some mystically significant third way, a 'have your cake and eat it' option, turns out to be null, as we always said it was," he said.

Mr Maude said the resignation of Frank Field, the welfare reform minister, proved Labour was finding difficulty with taking tough spending decisions, particularly on social security.

Even with a strong economy, public finances moving into surplus and a new government

move away from fossil fuels must not damage the economy.

But he added: "As you know, the government is committed to a new and strong drive to develop renewable energy sources and agrees that we need to move away from dependence on fossil fuels."

Ms Burton said: "This is a part of our climate agenda that they can see has the potential to create a sustainable industrial and energy base for Britain."

Greenpeace has also received a letter from John Browne, chief executive of BP, who said that although he was interested in solar energy, he believes more oil and coal will be needed in future.

He wrote: "We are investing substantial amounts in the solar business and watching with great interest the government's review."

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	£16,000	13.8%	£344.75	£21,845.00
ABBEY NATIONAL	£4,000	16.3%	£95.57	£5,734.20
	£10,000	13.4%	£225.70	£11,543.00
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Livingstone unveils his plan for running London

KEN LIVINGSTONE unveiled his personal manifesto for the job of Mayor of London yesterday with a call for greater tax-raising powers, more conductors on buses and free entry to Kew Gardens and London Zoo.

Twelve years since he last dominated London's politics, the former GLC leader outlined a vision that proved he had lost none of his populism or talent for upsetting the government of the day. A Livingstone mayoralty would levy a new Heathrow airport tax, pedestrianise key parts of the city and mastermind a task force to slash unemployment.

There would be no "bony war" against the car-free immediate Tube fare cuts, but improvements in public transport would be funded by congestion charges and taxes on parking spaces. Female Tube travellers would be made to feel safe

Tax on passengers travelling through Heathrow Airport to fund improvements to South Bank arts centre and free entry to London Zoo and Kew Gardens.

Two-term limit for the mayor, with a personal pledge that if he won the mayoral race he would not stay in office for more than one four-year term.

Jobs task force, using money from the City of London Corporation, to persuade councils and London Transport to take on the unemployed and train them for the private sector.

Congestion charging and new tax on car parking spaces to fund improvements to public transport.

"Proper" tax-raising powers once the Greater London Authority has won the confidence of Londoners.

Pedestrianisation of key parts of capital such as Soho and Trafalgar Square.

Conductors back on buses and the retention of the famous Routemaster double-decker red buses. Guards back on tube trains.

No mayoral limousine and no car pool for any of the members of the Greater London Assembly.



Livingstone: A flair for upsetting governments

In his detailed response to the Government's own White Paper on the Greater London Authority and a directly elected mayor for 2000, the MP said it was unacceptable that London paid every year £200m more into Treasury coffers than it got back in public spending.

"That was fine when London was regarded as the most prosperous part of the UK but today it has some of the most deprived areas in Britain," he said. "However, Siobhan McDonagh, Labour MP for Mitcham and Morden, said few Londoners wanted to go back to the days when Mr Livingstone ruled County Hall.

"This manifesto has all his characteristic panache, but London is an expensive enough city as it is and we don't need this spectre of more and greater taxes. The mayor of London is not the Chancellor of the Exchequer," he said.

Labour sources attacked Mr Livingstone's blueprint as a "disastrous" return to the tax-and-spend days of the GLC, but he said it was entirely in tune with the Government's devolu-

tion plans. "I do believe this will be the first step towards a regional government for Britain.

If we can get it right, it will spread right through the United Kingdom in Tony Blair's second term." This is a radical programme. All of it is achievable but I'm not going to lie. It does cost more money."

KEN'S BLUEPRINT FOR THE CAPITAL

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THE HOUSE



Netting the cash

FISHERMEN HIT by a ban on the use of drift-nets will receive government grants to help them decommission their equipment, agriculture minister Elliot Morley announced yesterday. The ban, a UK initiative during its EU presidency, will take effect in 2000 and is aimed at protecting dolphins. Fishermen who used "fixed gear" - where a net is left in one place and collected later for hake, dogfish and shark - will also be able to claim the cash.

Flight lunch

TONY BLAIR is not the first Prime Minister to use an RAF flight to go on holiday. Downing Street said last night, Margaret Thatcher and John Major did, too. The fares of the Prime Minister's wife and children were not paid for by the state, and he had a working lunch with the Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi.

Register concern

COMPANIES COULD be banned from buying copies of the electoral register because ministers think it puts some voters off registering, while others fear criminals misusing the rolls. Home Office minister George Howarth said last night.

Zero tolerance policing to tackle petty crime and vandalism as in New York. New police authority with power to dismiss any officer who refuses to testify against a corrupt or racist colleague.

ace 10 • Britain leads fight against sex tourism

BRITAIN IS to bring together governments from 25 countries to secure international cooperation in the fight against child abuse and child prostitution.

Government officials and police officers from countries in Western Europe and South East Asia, will meet with representatives of voluntary organisations in London in October.

The conference, organised by the Foreign Office, follows a report in *The Independent* last month, showing that a law introduced to allow British courts to try paedophiles who abused children overseas had not led to a single prosecution.

Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett said new measures were now planned. "Just as with trying to prevent football hooligans from travelling abroad, there are civil liberties difficulties but we will see if we can toughen things up," he said.

"One of the main ways of toughening up will be sharing intelligence between the police forces. We want to ensure that as soon as these people get off the plane, the local police know who they are and can watch where they go."

As the conference was announced yesterday, campaigners against paedophiles called for dialogue to be matched by actions enabling police to monitor sex attackers overseas.

Christine Beddoe, co-ordinator of End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking, said: "This conference makes it look like we are squeaky clean but there are still tremendous gaps in the paedophile register."

She said offences committed overseas must be recorded on the register and that registered paedophiles must be required to notify police of foreign travel.

Ms Beddoe said sex tourism did not merely exist in south east Asia. Three British paedophiles, with records of sex crimes in the

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

Britain, the authorities in some South East Asian countries have begun prosecuting Western sex tourists.

In May British paedophile James Darling, 47, was sentenced to 33 years after renting a house in Thailand and taking eight to 15-year-old gypsy boys to deserted islands where he abused them.

But the Sex Offenders Act 1997, which allowed British sex tourists to be prosecuted in British courts, has not led to any prosecutions, mainly due to the logistical difficulties of bringing witnesses to court.

Leading article,
Review, page 3

UK, were able to move to Ireland and continue their activities without the Irish police being aware of their presence.

Britain's most notorious travelling paedophile, Warwick Spinks, 38, was recently found to be running an accommodation agency in Slovenia.

He was released from prison last July after 30 months of a seven-year sentence for abducting a 14-year-old boy and selling him to a Dutch brothel.

Spinks refused to sign the paedophile register. He has since moved between a series of addresses in Europe.

Kate Lowes, of Stop Paedophiles Exploiting and Abusing Kids, said photographs must be attached to the paedophile register because child abusers often change their names. "It is a bright exchange of information with other police forces but at the moment our register is a lion without teeth," she said.

But Mr Fatchett said October's conference would be a "real initiative to help governments and police forces tackle sex tourism by Western men in south east Asia".

He said: "One of the things we can do is to bring the two parts of the equation together - Western Europe and the countries in Asia - and bring their police forces together."

"Practical things we can do are to share intelligence and to get our police forces working together so that people in south east Asia know what is going on when people from western Europe are moving around."

Officers from the Metropolitan and Durham police forces have been seconded to the Philippines, Thailand and Sri Lanka to advise local police on investigating sex crimes against children.

Partly due to the political pressure from governments like



Li Lixie, a musician with the Imperial Bell Ensemble of China, preparing for a concert last night at the Royal Albert Hall

Rui Xavier

Racism in the police 'endemic'

BY KATHY MARKS

THE COMMISSION for Racial Equality yesterday called on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry to recommend wide-ranging and urgent reforms to stamp out a pervasive culture of racism within the police service.

Sir Herman Ouseley, chairman of the CRE, said that without a comprehensive approach to tackle institutional racism within the police and other large organisations, changes would be "only marginal, with limited and superficial impact".

Sir Herman's views are expressed in a letter accompanying the CRE's submission to the second part of the public inquiry, which is examining the lessons to be learnt from events surrounding Stephen's racially motivated murder in 1993.

They echo those of Robin Oakley, one of the Metropolitan Police's most eminent advisers on race. As reported in yesterday's *Independent*, Dr Oakley has told the inquiry in his submission that there is a culture of institutional racism within the police service, and that it may have affected the actions of every officer who investigated Stephen's murder.

In a letter to Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, chairman of the inquiry, Sir Herman urges him to interpret his remit as widely as possible. Recommendations to improve the investigation and prosecution of racial crime should be made within the context of "a policy of overall non-tolerance of racism in any form", he says.

MILES KINGTON

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— THE TUESDAY REVIEW, PAGE 2 →

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Spin doctors report 'watered down'

OPPOSITION MPs who claim a report on government spin-doctors was watered down by Labour members will publish their own version alongside the official one, it emerged last night.

The report from the House of Commons Public Administration Committee was rewritten by its six Labour members, to the consternation of its three Conservative members and one Liberal Democrat. Criti-

BY FRAN ABRAMS
Political Correspondent

cism of the politicisation of the Government Information Service (GIS) and of the heavy use of Labour insiders as press aides is believed to have been toned down in the final report.

The Government has been attacked for treating existing press officers as political tools and for driving several out of their posts. Several heads of in-

formation who have left their jobs since the general election have written to the committee during its investigation and are believed to have been critical of the way they were treated by the new Government.

One MP on the committee said its report had originally concentrated too heavily on the role of Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's official spokesman. Problems of low morale among press officers,

which were equally important, had been so far back in the report that they would barely have been noticed.

The row has led the four opposition MPs to take the unusual step of publishing a minority report. Both versions will be published on Thursday.

Yesterday the Liberal Democrat on the committee, Mike Hancock (Portsmouth S), said criticisms had disappeared from the report. "What we have

got now is 'no problems at all, everything in the garden is lovely and there are no problems in the GIS', despite the fact that people keep leaving it and despite the fact that there is a perceived problem," he said.

Earlier, in a radio interview, he said the committee had not been convinced that the GIS was either transparent or unbiased. "I think the facts of the case were the complete opposite. What we had was the Gov-

ernment Information Service being used by spin doctors as an information service for the Labour Party," he said.

The committee chairman, Rhodri Morgan, said: "I regret all the speculation that there has been. People should be very surprised when they actually read the report itself compared to some of the more lurid accounts that have come out so far," he said.

The inquiry has often been

portrayed as concentrating on the role of Mr Campbell, though it was intended to be much wider. The committee did hear evidence from Mr Campbell, as well as hearing criticism of his role from Sir Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's former press secretary. Mr Campbell denied briefing reporters against ministers or leaking announcements in advance.

■ Frank Field, who resigned last week as Social Security minister, hit back yesterday after a weekend of briefings which dubbed him a "joke" and his welfare ideas "paltry and unpublishable". The MP for Birkenhead said the press of critics had to be reined in before they did serious damage to the party, and he added: "In the long run you cannot run a government like this. It is a cancer eating away at the heart of our very existence and undermines the way ministers behave."

Noble on dole after stately home venture fails

BY GARY FINN

HIS FAMILY won lands from King Edgar for eradicating wolves from Staffordshire. But for Sir Charles Wolseley the economic wolves are now firmly at his door - he is signing on the dole.

The 11th baronet, whose fortune and 1,300-acre estate evaporated into bankruptcy two years ago, is now a regular at the Jobcentre where he is tasting life at the sharp end.

The 54-year-old aristocrat is spared the ordeal of signing on thanks to the 12 miles distance from his stately pile to the Jobcentre but postal coupons declaring his availability every fortnight ensure his £140 Giro cheque.

Signing on for benefits marks a huge change in the personal fortunes of Sir Charles, whose estate is just a few hundred yards from Shugborough Hall, home of the Queen's cousin, the Earl of Lichfield. The estate lands date back to Saxon times and it are believed to have been given by King Edgar to the Wolseleys in



Sir Charles and his wife Lady Jeannie survey their ruined garden at Garden Park, Staffordshire

News Team

975 for destroying wolves in Staffordshire.

The family's motto remains "Homo homini lupus" - Man is as a wolf to his fellow man.

Sir Charles fell on hard times after deciding to open up

his family home to visitors in the late 1980s at a cost of £173m.

Wolseley Garden Park, which covers 45 acres, eventually opened in 1990 but it failed to bring in the number of visitors hoped for and took only £30,000 in gate receipts in its first year.

Sir Charles blamed the recession as debts reached £1.6m and at one point more than 100 creditors were owed money.

He put the estate on the market in December 1995 before being made bankrupt in May 1996 and then the bank stepped in to sell the property to pay the debts. Woodland totalling 350 acres has already been sold and a garden centre on the estate has been leased.

Sir Charles now risks losing his home, Park House, which is on the estate and which he shares with his American wife Lady Jeannie.

The property is up for sale and is mortgaged to the National Westminster Bank as security.

He said: "I am now on job-

seekers allowance and one gets by the best one can. I am trying to get a job. "I am a qualified chartered surveyor, but I am over-qualified and when you are 54, age is against you."

Sir Charles, who in the past has been forced to accept free potatoes from a tenant, has been claiming benefit for several months but has yet to be offered an interview despite making several applications for jobs as a surveyor.

"Trees that are broken have fallen and have been left unpaired. It's just a scene of devastation and dereliction," he said.

"It's also been vandalised. For instance, there was an obelisk in the garden which has been smashed to pieces and there were benches which have been thrown into the lake."



LOST FORTUNES
Marquess of Bristol: jailed for 10 months in 1993 for possession of heroin and cocaine - lost a reputed £20m and was forced to sell Ickworth, the family's Suffolk stately home since the 15th century, to the Nation Trust to pay off debts.

Sophie Buchan-Watt: lost her share of £500,000 inheritance after the 10th Earl of Selkirk cut her out of the will for getting a job as a topless dancer.

Sir Julius Wernher, the "Randlord" baron: built a £100m fortune which included the Luton Hoo estate in Bedfordshire. His great-grandson Nicky Phillips, the Duke of Edinburgh's godson, killed himself seven years ago after the estate's value crumbled to £8m.

Lord Brockat: jailed five years ago for his part in a £4.5m insurance fraud, involving the fake theft of his classic car collection, which was organised to stave off mounting debts that threatened the family home, Brocket Hall.

Honor Fraser: the sister of the 18th Lord Lovat who inherited a £7m debt following the tragic events which killed her father, grandfather and uncle in a year. She went into modelling and is now the face of Couture Givenchy.

GARY FINN

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New mini-microchips go into mass production

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

has been proven since the 1970s, and people have known they would have to switch to it. But they haven't, so far.

That position may be about to change radically, though. IBM, which is one of the world's largest chipmakers in its own right, said yesterday that it will start producing high volumes of processor chips using the new technology, called "silicon on insulator" (SOI), from early next year.

The key to the breakthrough is a still-secret means of mass-producing SOI chips, which had previously only been made in limited volumes.

Among the first to benefit should be Apple Computer for which IBM produces the PowerPC processor. That will be

among the chips using SOI technology, which produces chips one-third smaller than the silicon wafer, and which can speed a chip up by at least 25 per cent without any other design changes.

SOI differs from existing chip designs by putting the millions of transistors that make up a processor onto an insulating surface, instead of a semiconductor layer. Current thus flows more freely, reducing heating effects, and there is less interference between the transistors, which are separated by only a few thousandths of a millimetre.

The SOI chips can also be made radiation-proof - which led to their early adoption during the Cold War by the military, worried about the effects of a nuclear strike. One-off SOI chips are also used in satellites.

Siemens closed down its semi-conductor plant on Tyneside last week and Japanese chipmaker NEC said yesterday it is cutting capital investment in new semiconductor facilities by 16 per cent, citing the slump in the global market for chips.

Diana bodyguard speaks out

TREVOR REES-JONES, the bodyguard who survived the Paris car crash which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, yesterday spoke of his sadness and sympathy for the families of those who died.

"I have at the front of my mind the fact that three people were killed in the accident last August," he said.

"On this, the first occasion I have spoken publicly, I wish to extend my sympathy to the families and friends of those killed."

"I ask you to appreciate that the next month will be a difficult time for the relatives of

those killed in the accident. It will also be a difficult time for me and my family."

"I ask you all to respect our privacy at this time and allow us all to deal with the anniversary in our own way."

Mr Rees-Jones, who spoke to PA News and APTV, added:

"Finally, I wish to make clear that I have received no payment for recording this statement and, apart from my salary, have received no payment since the date of the accident."

Mr Rees-Jones, a former

paratrooper and only survivor of the crash, suffered horrific injuries, and endured a series of painful operations to rebuild his face in the 11 months since he was pulled from the Mercedes wreck that killed Diana, boyfriend Dodi Fayed and driver Henri Paul.

Now the 29-year-old, from Oswestry, Shropshire, is trying to rebuild his life.

He has given up his job with Harrods chief Mohamed al Fayed and works as a part-time sales assistant in a sports shop.

July 1997

Kohl turns his fire on the Greens

IN THE "German autumn" of 1973, a young revolutionary named Joschka Fischer lent his Volkswagen to a terrorist working for Carlos The Jackal. The car, as he was to learn much later, was used to transport weapons stolen from American barracks in Frankfurt, including the gun that snuffed out the life of a senior politician in 1981.

Mr Fischer gave statements to the police, pleaded his innocence in public as he embarked on a parliamentary career, and thought he had cleared his

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

name by the time he was appointed Environment Minister of the Land of Hesse in 1985. The story ended there.

Until today, for Mr Fischer, a former firebrand, is now a foreign minister in waiting, and his murky past therefore the stuff with which elections are fought. In their desperate struggle to hold on to the reins of power, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats

have Mr Fischer in their sights. The Greens, the party led by the unwitting gun-runner, are central to opposition plans to unseat Mr Kohl. In the latest opinion polls, the Social Democrats are between four and six points ahead of the Chancellor's Christian block.

The lead represents a swing of between eight and 10 per cent over the result four years ago, but it will not be enough. It is almost inconceivable that Gerhard Schröder, the self-declared Blairite champion of the SPD,

might be able to form a government alone after September's general elections. His most likely coalition partners are Mr Fischer's mob. The Greens are expected to net about seven per cent of the votes.

The Chancellor's men have conducted a red scare campaign against Mr Schröder, and tried to appeal to Germans' fear of "criminal foreigners", but all to no avail. The gap has narrowed, but only slightly.

Mud is simply not sticking to Mr Schröder. The suggestion

that the coupon-clipping chancellor candidate, widely derided on the left as capitalist lackey, is in league with crypto-communists is preposterous. And a tough law and order campaign unveiled by Mr Schröder's team last week took the sting out of charges that the new government would be soft on crime, whatever its colour.

The government campaign has therefore been switched abruptly to the Greens, arguably the weak link in the putative Red-Green coalition. And since Mr Fischer is generally seen as the sole guarantor of sanity in a party strangely drawn to loony tunes, he has been drawing most of the fire.

In Christian Democrat election adverts, the Green leader is described as a "street-fighter" who in 1976 had called for the use of Molotov cocktails against the state. More importantly, the Christian Democrats' leader in the Hesse parliament, Franz-Josef Jung, urged Mr Fischer last week to "shed light" on his role in the 1981 murder of the

Hesse Economics Minister, Heinz Herbert Karry.

Not that there is much to add to revelations that first appeared in 1985 and were reheated in the pro-Kohl press at the weekend. Yesterday's Focus magazine, the only important weekly not to have defected to the Schröder camp, gives chapter and verse.

Focus cites official documents to show that Mr Fischer had given his car to a friend named Hans-Joachim Klein in October 1973. Klein is believed

to have participated in the kidnap of OPEC ministers in Vienna in 1975.

There is no suggestion that Mr Fischer knew of the guns in his boot. In the press not sympathetic to Mr Kohl, the Green leader is quoted as saying that Klein, a car mechanic, had been given the Volkswagen to fix the engine, and had inexplicably kept the vehicle beyond the appointed date.

End of story? - Hardly. There are still eight weeks to go till election day.

Vigil for forgotten victims of Nazis

THE CHAPTER of the Second World War known as the forgotten Holocaust was commemorated at a memorial vigil in Budapest for the hundreds of thousands of Roma and Sinti people - Gypsies are known - exterminated by the Nazis.

The vigil, organised by the Foundation for Romany Civil Rights, took place in front of the Hungarian Parliament.

It commemorated the night of 2 to 3 August 1942, when the Nazis killed 4,500 Gypsies at Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, to make space for the arrival of the latest consignment of Jews. The night is known as the "Föraymány", or devouring in the Gypsy language.

"In the name of the Hungarian government, I bow before the memory of the Roma victims of the Holocaust," said Csaba Hende, an official at the Justice Ministry.

Speakers read out the names of Gypsy Holocaust victims, while singer Erika Mate sang a lament: "Dear God, let the day come when all the slaves are freed. Punish the Germans, oh God, for they have killed the people."

Roma activists said that while the world knows about the extermination of six million

BY ADAM LEBOR
in Budapest

Jews, the mass killings organised by the Nazis of Gypsies, as well as the handicapped, homosexuals and Communists, often remain unknown, and unacknowledged. For many, the killing of Gypsies, is the "forgotten Holocaust".

Holocaust historians are unclear how many Gypsies were killed by the Nazis, although most believe the figure is somewhere between 200,000 and 600,000. Between 50,000 and 60,000 Hungarian Gypsies were deported by the Nazis during the last two years of the war.

Whatever the true figure, the Nazis soon targeted Gypsies and rapidly amended the Nuremberg Racial laws that governed the life of Jews to include Gypsies.

In May 1936, Berlin police used the Olympic games as a pretext for rounding up hundreds of Gypsies and incarcerated them behind barbed wire on waste ground in the suburb of Marzahn.

As the Holocaust began to devour eastern Europe's Jews, Gypsies were soon caught up in the Nazi death machine. Like Jews, Gypsies were singled

out for bestial medical experiments, as Nazi scientists were intrigued by their racial makeup. Until August 1944 the Nazis ran a special Gypsy family camp at Auschwitz.

At the same time as Budapest Gypsy leaders held their Holocaust memorial vigil, Israeli officials have demanded that Polish authorities remove 50 crosses placed outside Auschwitz by Catholic activists.

The placing of the crosses is the latest escalation in a long-running dispute between Jews and Christians over the management of the Auschwitz site.

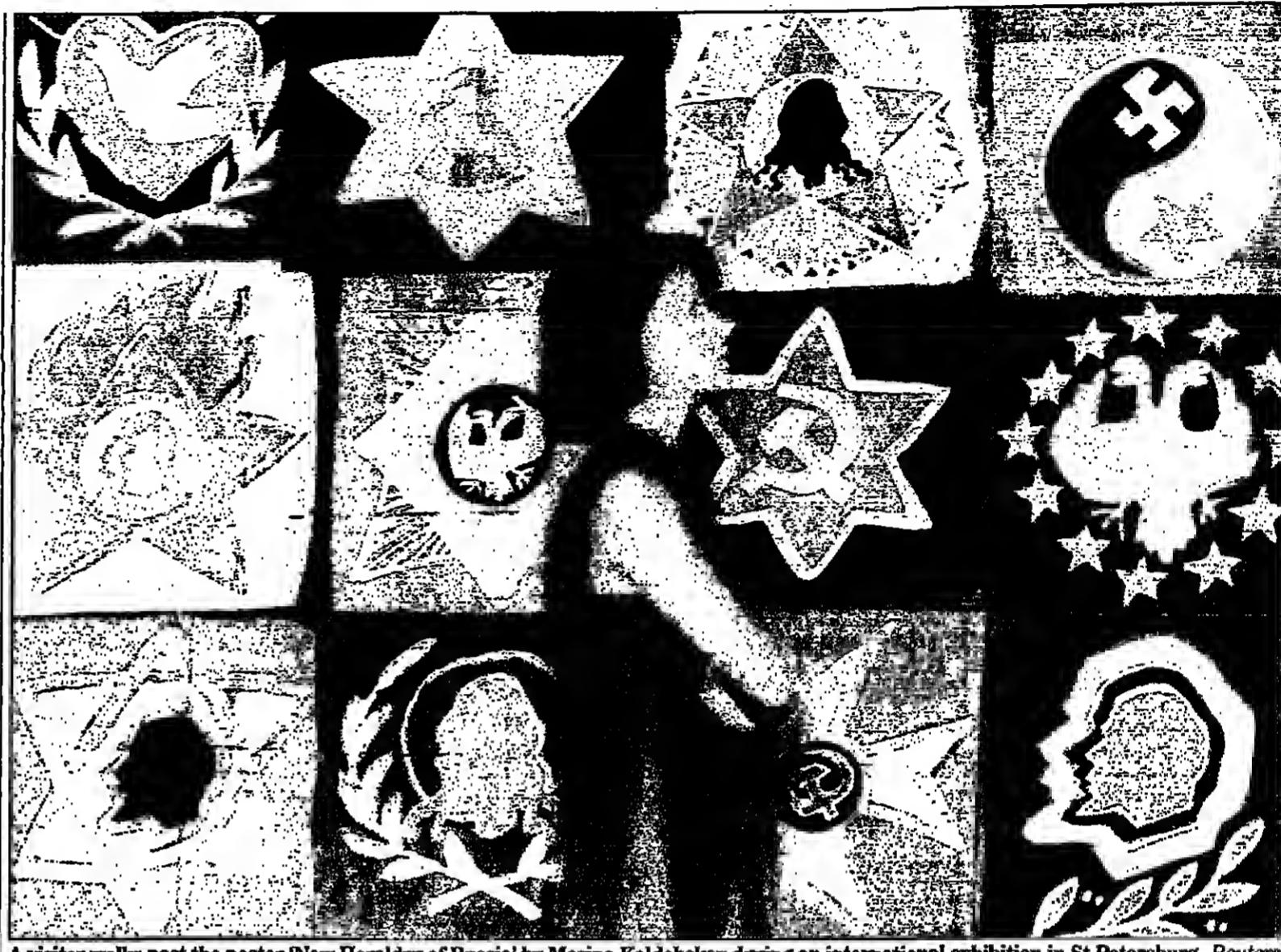
Jewish leaders have accused Catholic activists of insensitivity for their persistent attempts to erect crosses around the Auschwitz site.

About 90 per cent of those killed at Auschwitz - at least 2.5 million people according to camp commandant Rudolf

Hoess - were Jews, the remainder mainly Poles, Gypsies and Soviet POWs.

"We want the entire escarpment to teem with crosses," said Catholic activist Kazimierz Switon, who held a 42-day hunger strike to prevent the removal of a 22-foot cross set up to mark the visit by Pope John Paul II.

As the Holocaust began to devour eastern Europe's Jews, Gypsies were soon caught up in the Nazi death machine. Like Jews, Gypsies were singled



A visitor walks past the poster 'New Heraldry of Russia' by Marina Koldobskay during an international exhibition in St Petersburg. Reuters

Kinshasa curfew as Kabila's former allies turn against him

GUNMEN LOYAL to President Laurent Kabila patrolled Kinshasa's rutted streets yesterday in search of allied-turned-enemy Rwandan mercenaries who are suspected of plotting against the government.

The capital awoke to the sound of gunfire as soldiers clashed inside their base compounds in the west of the city. A dawn-to-dusk curfew was imposed on Kinshasa, while in

BY KAMANGA MUTOND
in Kinshasa, Congo

eastern Congo, military officers appeared to be in open revolt against Mr Kabila.

About 14 months after charging victoriously into the capital, the rebel alliance that carried Mr Kabila to power appears to be unravelling.

"The government asks the people of Congo and those for-

igners here to stay calm and to stay at home until order is restored," said an announcement yesterday morning on the state-controlled People's Radio.

Troops loyal to Mr Kabila set up roadblocks in the city and began a massive search for Rwandan Tutsi soldiers. A defence ministry official said loyalist troops had been ordered to kill any Rwandan troops found hiding in or around the city.

The pre-dawn clashes at two military bases apparently pitted Mr Kabila's troops against Rwandan mercenaries, who last year helped the President oust the long-time dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. Mr Kabila last week ordered all Rwandan soldiers to leave the country.

The fighting comes amid growing suspicions within Mr Kabila's government that the Rwandan troops had been plot-

ting against the regime. Early Mr Kabila sacked James Kabari, a Rwandan Tutsi who had been the President's top military commander.

According to a defence ministry official, more than 1,000 Rwandan Tutsi soldiers fled the Kokolo base in Kinshasa and are hiding in a forest just outside of the city.

In the Rwandan capital, Ki-

gali, a news agency reported

that an open rebellion against Mr Kabila had been launched in North Kivu province in eastern Congo. "We, the army of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have taken the decision to remove President Laurent-Désiré Kabila from power," said a statement read on Radio Goma.

The statement was signed by Sylvain Mbuchi, commander of the 10th battalion of the Congolese army based in Goma.

the provincial capital Eastern Congo's Banyamulenge Tutsi population has been increasingly restive against Mr Kabila's rule. His foreign minister, Bizima Karaha, a Tutsi, failed to return home on Saturday from a trip to South Africa. His absence has triggered speculation that he may be linked to the uprising in the east.

In the capital, Mr Kabila had been growing anxious over the

presence of Rwandan forces in Kinshasa, and weeks before ordering them to leave, he increased security around government buildings.

The sound of fighting yesterday triggered a government order to clear the streets. Shops in the capital remained closed, and people who had headed downtown for work early in the morning quickly returned home.

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IN BRIEF

Voters turn from Japan's PM

THE NEWLY formed Cabinet of the Japanese Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, was supported by less than one-third of voters questioned in a weekend poll, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The poll, by the newspaper *Asahi*, found 32 per cent support for Mr Obuchi's Cabinet, with 47 per cent of those polled saying they do not support the new administration. That figure was the worst disapproval rating for a new Cabinet since the paper began taking polls on the subject in 1955, excluding a scandal-tainted government of Sosuke Uno in 1969.

Zimbabwe's legal 'mistake'

THE ZIMBABWEAN government said that a law gazetted last week limiting political and public gatherings and extending curbs on strike action was published by mistake.

Rights groups had denounced the law as a stealthy introduction of a state of emergency. "None of the instruments was seen or approved by the responsible minister or the President, so... their publication was invalid and does not represent the policy of the government," the Attorney-General, Patrick Chinamasa, said in a statement. The rules were published amid threats by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) to call a five-day work stoppage to press demands for tax cuts.

Rescuers search on for miners

RESCUEERS DECIDED to keep searching for survivors in a caved-in Austrian mine near the Alpine village of Lassing, south-west of Vienna, even though they had failed to find 10 missing men an air pocket that appeared to be the men's only possible refuge in the landslide that buried them 17 days before.

Taliban pushes for control

THE TALIBAN pushed ahead in its drive to seize control of all Afghanistan, closing in on an opposition stronghold a day after it captured a nearby town. The Taliban met little resistance when it took Sheberghan on Sunday, but faced a fight in Mazar-e-Sharif, said Zabot Salay, spokesman for the anti-Taliban leader Ahmed Shah Massoud. "Our forces are ready to defend Mazar-e-Sharif."

Russian composer dies

ALFRED SCHNITTKE, widely regarded as the last great Russian composer of the 20th century and whose work ranged from orchestral symphonies to film scores, died on Monday in a Hamburg hospital aged 63 after a long illness.

Poll alarms Mexico's rulers

By PAUL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

NEXT year it turns 70. It has provided Mexico's presidents ever since it began. But can the mighty Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), born out of the ashes of the bloody 1910-17 revolution, cling to power into the 21st century?

Early results from three state elections at the weekend provided mixed answers.

The PRI appeared to have easily retained the Gulf coast state of Veracruz, the country's third most populous. That could be a key swing state in the next presidential elections, in the year 2000, with four million votes at stake. Many Mexicans believe the likely new governor, 66-year-old Miguel Aleman Velasco, son of a former president, ran merely to test his popularity and may stand down to run for president of the nation.

That would probably pit him against another former president's son, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, of the left-wing Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), currently mayor of Mexico City.

The PAN needed the victory to keep up momentum for the presidential race, which many commentators say the PRI could lose for the first time since it was founded. For most of those seven decades, the PRI won national, state and local elections through vote-buying or coercion. But, largely after pressure from the USA, the party was forced to open up to clean, or at least cleaner elections over the last decade.

That allowed the PAN to win six of the country's 31 states. But its momentum was slowed last month when the PRI won back one of those states, Chihuahua, proving to doubters that the long-ruling party may be ageing and infirm but it may yet have the strength if fraud were proved.

Although it has not yet won a state governorship, the PRD has been chopping away at the PRI in poor southern states, where at least two guerrilla groups operate, while the strongly Catholic PAN has been spreading from its traditional power base in the north.

to hold on to the presidency – and with it the national government – in 2000.

The PRD suffered its worst setbacks last year when, in mid-term elections, it lost its majority in the lower house for the first time and also lost the race for mayor of Mexico City – the country's second most influential job – to PRD leader Cardenas.

The PRD ran the PRI close in Sunday's third state race, for governorship of the poverty-stricken state of Oaxaca, amid allegations of voting fraud. After early results, both parties claimed victory but most exit polls suggested PRI candidate Jose Murat was ahead. PRD candidate Hector Sanchez disputed Murat's victory declaration and said the PRD would demand the result be declared void if fraud were proved.

Although it has not yet won a state governorship, the PRD has been chopping away at the PRI in poor southern states, where at least two guerrilla groups operate, while the strongly Catholic PAN has been spreading from its traditional power base in the north.

throughout Kosovo and six villages had been levelled.

Serb sources said that troops had shelled Simica for days and continued yesterday to lay siege to another border village, Jumik. Independent media in Belgrade said most KLA fighters had slipped out of the village for sanctuaries in nearby Albania.

BY ANNE THOMPSON
in Pristina, Yugoslavia

twice that number in one area alone.

US envoy Christopher Hill called the offensive, which came a week after Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic promised that fighting against the Kosovo Liberation Army

was over, a setback to peace efforts and said: "We are on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe."

The renewed clashes have disrupted communications and UN workers are unable to reach pockets of refugees cut off by the fighting.

Ethnic Albanian sources reported widespread fighting

Thousands flee fighting in Kosovo

SERB FORCES overran another ethnic Albanian stronghold, Smicica, and pressed their attacks elsewhere in Kosovo yesterday, after a weekend of fighting that displaced tens of thousands of people.

The UN relief agency estimated 35,000 people fled their homes during the weekend. The Red Cross reported finding

July 1998

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Off-licence merger 'to avoid MMC'
WHITBREAD AND Allied Domecq are understood to have received confidential guidance that the proposed merger of their Threshers and Victoria Wine off-licence chains will not fall foul of the competition authorities. The size of the deal means it is certain to be examined by the Office of Fair Trading, but industry experts said the guidance had been a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was unlikely.

The two companies confirmed yesterday that they are in talks about a possible 50-50 joint venture that would have 3,000 branches and annual sales of £1.5bn. The venture's share of the total take-home drinks market would be around 13 per cent. However, it would have nearly one-third of the high street off-licence market.

Huntingdon shares suspended

SHARES in Huntingdon Life Sciences, the animal-testing company, were suspended yesterday at 19.5p after the company revealed that it was negotiating a refinancing package.

The company, which was accused of cruelty to animals after a television documentary broadcast last year, said the financing package could

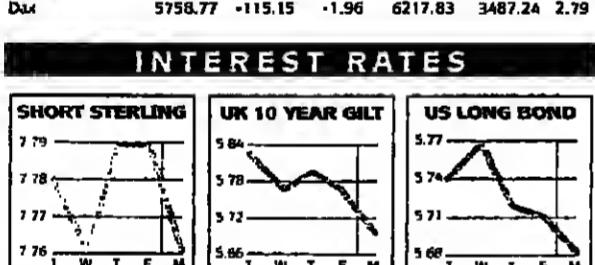
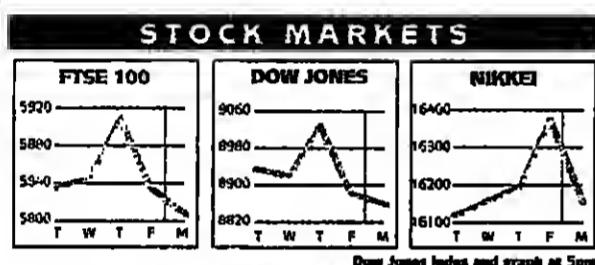
include a new share issue, new medium-term banking facilities and "possible board changes".

Three more quit Deutsche Bank

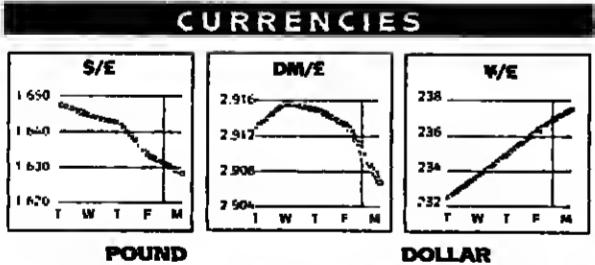
THREE MORE investment bankers have left Deutsche Bank to join a rival firm, a spokesman for the German bank confirmed yesterday.

The departure of Peter Golob, who headed the 20-strong telecoms team, along with Andrew McLennan and Edward Dunn, has prompted speculation of more defections. Merrill Lynch yesterday declined to comment on reports that the trio had signed up to join its telecoms team, which is co-headed by Tom Casey.

Deutsche has recently suffered a number of high-profile defections as it restructures its operations and the relationship between its London and Frankfurt offices. Last month Rory Macnamara left its mergers and acquisitions team in London, while over 100 of its Silicon Valley-based technology analysts departed en masse to join Crédit Suisse First Boston. Peter Golob's twin brother James, who is a telecoms analyst at Deutsche's equities division, is reported to be staying at the bank.



MONEY MARKET RATES		BOND YIELDS		
3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	
UK	7.75	0.62	7.81	0.31
US	5.68	0.00	5.81	-0.09
Japan	0.65	0.04	0.66	-0.07
Germany	3.52	0.33	3.80	0.32



OTHER INDICATORS	
Class	Chg
Brent Oil (\$)	12.20 -0.35
D-Mark (\$)	2.9065 -0.15
Yen (\$)	237.59 +11.19
E Index	104.20 +0.00
Gold (\$)	284.15 -2.20
Ireland (pounds)	1.1176
Indian (rupees)	65.74
Israel (shekels)	5.4904
Italy (lira)	2795
Japan (yen)	232.25
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.4117
Malta (lira)	0.6185

www.bloomberg.com/uk SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6075	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.22
Austria (schillings)	19.81	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1759
Belgium (francs)	58.23	New Zealand (\$)	3.0676
Canada (\$)	2.4064	Norway (krone)	12.05
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8266	Portugal (escudos)	285.13
Denmark (krone)	10.82	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9423
Finland (markka)	8.6236	Singapore (\$)	2.6641
France (francs)	9.4420	Spain (pesetas)	238.73
Germany (marks)	2.8272	South Africa (rand)	9.5415
Greece (drachma)	467.59	Sweden (koron)	12.70
Hong Kong (\$)	12.25	Switzerland (francs)	2.3786
Ireland (pounds)	1.1176	Thailand (bahts)	59.86
India (rupees)	65.74	Turkey (liras)	423688
Israel (shekels)	5.4904	USA (\$)	1.5930
Italy (lira)	2795		
Japan (yen)	232.25		
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.4117		
Malta (lira)	0.6185		

Rates for indication purposes only.

London Electricity up for sale with £1.9bn price tag

By MICHAEL HARRISON

A FRESH wave of consolidation is under way in the energy sector after London Electricity was put up for sale yesterday by its US owners, Entergy.

The sale is expected to raise up to £1.9bn, compared with the £1.6bn New Orleans-based Entergy paid for London Electricity 18 months ago.

Bidders may include owners of other regional electricity companies (Recs), rivals such as Centrica and financial buyers such as the Japanese bank, Nomura Pacific Corp, which lost the battle for Eastern.

Entergy is also selling its Australian electricity business CitiPower and some US telecoms and energy management businesses. The group is aim-

ing to raise \$4bn (£2.5bn), the bulk of which will be used to reduce debts standing at £1bn.

London Electricity has been seeking a merger with another Rec for some time and held talks with Seaboard and Northern Electric.

The decision to sell the business altogether follows a change of management at Entergy in May, which saw the abrupt departure of its chairman and chief executive, Ed Lupberger, who negotiated the original purchase in 1996.

Entergy said it now concentrates on its US electricity business, nuclear power

and international power generation. It said the sale of London Electricity would not affect its investments in UK power generation, adding that Entergy could be interested in bidding for power stations being sold off by PowerGen and National Power.

The decision to sell London Electricity follows the £1.9bn sale last month of East Midlands Electricity to PowerGen by another US utility, Dominion Resources.

PowerGen has completed the purchase and is waiting to see whether it will escape referral to the Monopolies and

Competition Commission. London Electricity is one of seven UK Re却s taken over by US utilities since mid-1995. The others are Yorkshire, Midland, Electricity Northern, Seaboard and Eastern.

A sale to one of these companies is possible, but Mr Bernis said there were also a number of other leading US utilities without US presence that could be interested.

The candidate most likely to launch a financially-structured bid is Nomura's principal finance group, run by Guy Handys. Nomura considered making a bid for Eastern, part of the Energy Group, but pulled

out claiming the price was too high. The company was eventually bought by Texas Utilities for £4.5bn earlier this year.

London Electricity has 2 million customers and 4,000 employees. Before its sale to Entergy a number of other leading US utilities were deterred from bidding by the fact that it supplies the capital, leaving its owner vulnerable to adverse publicity in the event of power failures.

In the second quarter London Electricity contributed \$65m to Entergy's improved financial performance, although \$44m related to tax benefits.

Outlook, page 15

Far East takes its toll on HSBC profits

BY LEA PATERSON

HSBC, the banking group, yesterday disappointed the City with its latest set of earnings figures, which were hit hard by the Far Eastern financial crisis.

The banking giant, which is heavily exposed to the troubled Asian region, reported a 14 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to \$1.6bn (£1.23bn). HSBC has set aside an additional £700m in provisions for bad and doubtful loans.

John Bond, group chairman, said it was "difficult to predict" when the stricken Asian economies would recover. However, Mr Bond said the group's confidence in Asia's long-term prospects remained strong.

At a press conference in London, Keith Whitson, HSBC's chief executive, stressed the group's commitment to Asia although he admitted the bank was taking a more cautious approach in the region. "We have changed the strategy of building personal banking in Asia, but not the direction," he said.

Mr Whitson said the group had no plans to exit investment banking, despite intense media speculation earlier this year. He said: "We have absolutely no intention of selling or divesting



HSBC is confident of Asia's long-term prospects, said group chief executive Keith Whitson (left), pictured with finance director Douglas Flint

Andrew Buurma

HSBC is keeping an open mind on acquisitions, according to Mr Whitson. He said: "We are well placed to take advantage of opportunities." However, he cautioned that the group had "very exacting" acquisition criteria.

Shares in HSBC group fell by 33p to 1,490p.

Investment column, page 19

CWC shares hit by bond sale plan

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

SHARES in Cable & Wireless Communications, the country's second-largest telecoms operator, lost 11 per cent of their value yesterday as a major shareholder announced plans to sell bonds backed by the shares.

CWC shares crashed 27.5p to 598.5p as Bell Atlantic, the US group which owns 18.5 per cent of the company, announced plans to raise "in excess of \$3bn" in interest-bearing notes exchangeable into CWC shares.

Bell, which last week unveiled a \$3bn (£23bn) merger with GTE, the US long-distance operator, plans to price the bonds at a premium to the CWC share price, effectively mortgaging the expected future returns from the shares. When

they mature the

London calling as Louisiana beckons

THE AMERICANS are leaving. First the Virginians who run Dominion Resources decided to make Eli Wallin's day by selling him a regional electricity company in the shape of East Midlands, New Energy, the owners of London Electricity, are packing their bags and heading back to New Orleans after just 18 months running the show.

If this is a trend, we are in for an awful lot more corporate action over the next 12 months because at the last count of US utilities still owned seven of the 12 Recs, Texas Utilities can presumably be counted on to hang on to Eastern for a while as it is still digesting its acquisition.

But what about the boys from Dallas, Central and South West, who would not be unhappy to see the back of Seaboard, or Southern Company of Atlanta, Georgia which has been looking for an exit from SWEB almost since the day it bought the business?

Based on the price at which East Midlands and Eastern have recently changed hands, Entergy's advisors estimate that London ought to fetch at least £1.8bn which should help cut its £16bn debt mountain down to more manageable proportions.



OUTLOOK

But how distant that day now seems back in December 1996 when Entergy made its agreed offer for London. Ed Lamberger, the then chairman and chief executive officer, waxed lyrical about being a long-term participant in the UK electricity market and how London would serve as his platform for the conquest of Europe's energy markets.

Mr Lamberger was invited to leave in May after shareholders decided they did not share his vision and liked what his expansionist strategy was doing to the balance sheet even less. Now the mantra is focus and a return to concentrating on core businesses.

The first time that London went

under the hammer, there was not too much interest from across the Atlantic. The Americans were worried seemingly about the damage that a "brown out" at Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Westminster would do to their reputations.

This time around, there is the forthcoming distribution price review and the prospect of a harsher regulatory climate to worry about. If there really were a queue of buyers falling over one another to acquire London then Entergy would not have had to go to the trouble of getting Morgan Stanley to arrange an auction.

That said, it only needs one buyer Nomura's Guy Hands could try his luck again, PacificCorp is still smarting from having lost the baton for Eastern and there is surely someone who is prepared to see how the competition authorities react to a Rec on Rec merger.

Not time to party just yet

WHITEBREAD AND Allied Domecq's attempt to put together their Threshers and Victoria Wine licence businesses is hardly sur-

prising given the dynamics of the market. The competitive impact of the big supermarkets and the cross channel booze trade have left these two chains looking like a pair of drunks who have imbibed one too many cans of Tennant's Super. Having woken up with one almighty hangover they have now decided that rather than punch each other's lights out, it would be better to wear arm arm into the night.

As a defensive strategy it is hard to fault. The pair will be able to wring out annual savings of around £5m. And their combined buying power will match those of the big supermarkets. But the real question is whether they can get the deal through the competition authorities. The pair have already sought confidential guidance from the OFT and seem to have got the nod that there will be no problem.

This assumes however, that the OFT takes the broader definition of the take home drinks market. If it takes in the whole trade, including the major supermarkets, a combined Thresher-Victoria Wine would account for around 13 per cent of the market, just behind Tesco and just ahead of Sainsbury's. On that basis it ought to get the green light.

But if the narrower definition of high street off licences is adopted their 3,000 branches would amount to a market share of more than 30 per cent. Of course there are compelling arguments Whitbread and Allied Domecq could bring to bear. One is that there is hardly a paucity of competition in the market.

The number of outlets selling booze in Britain has risen by more than half since 1970 from 28,000 to almost 50,000 as supermarkets and convenience stores have muscled in. They could also argue that a stronger high street off licence group would provide a more effective competitive break on the supermarkets.

But many a slip between cup and lip. If the merger does get referred, it wouldn't be the first time the competition authorities have given positive guidance confidentially and then changed their minds. Just ask Ladbrooke and JC Deaux. So a nice idea lads, but don't get the bears in just yet.

Stop yapping at the MPC

BARELY A day passes without another call for an injection of "real

monthly interest-rate meetings should not be affected by the number of industrial economists on the committee.

So those clamouring for more private sector appointments are barking up the wrong tree. They should be lobbying the Chancellor for a new set of objectives but since stability of monetary policy is a cornerstone of Mr Brown's strategy they might as well stop yapping.

Bloody nose for Bell Atlantic

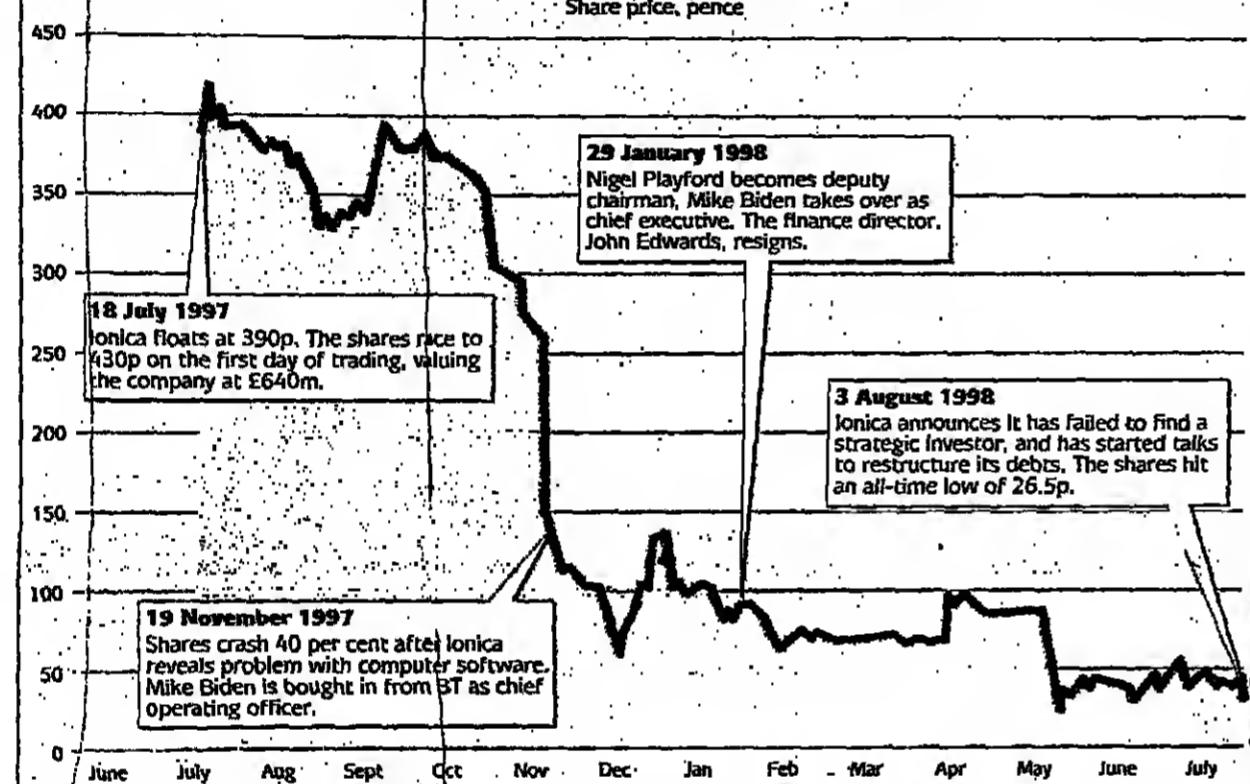
BELL ATLANTIC'S stake in Cable & Wireless Communications was worth £1.87bn yesterday morning. By the end of the day it had lost £200m in value.

The reason? A rather cheeky offer from Bell to mortgage its CWC stake by issuing \$3bn worth of bonds backed by the shareholding. If the shares rise in value, Bell repays investors in cash. If they fall, it pays out in shares. The markets decided to give Bell a bloody nose. Who says telecom stocks are a one-way bet?

News Analysis: Plans for a new national telecom network are in ruins after a 'woeful tale of mismanagement'

THE FALL AND FALL OF IONICA

Share price, pence



Ionica looks doomed without rescue cash

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

IONICA YESTERDAY moved a step closer to complete bankruptcy when it warned shareholders that it had failed to find a strategic investor to rescue the troubled wireless telecom group.

Ionica also announced it had instructed its financial adviser to start talks with holders of its bonds about restructuring its crippling debt load.

There can be no assurance that a strategic investor will be forthcoming, nor that any restructuring will be completed," Ionica warned, adding that a further announcement was expected shortly.

Shares in Ionica tumbled 15p to an all-time low of 25.5p – a catastrophic fall from its 390p flotation 12 months ago. The plunge, which has seen the company's market value fall from £640m to just £45m, makes Ionica one of the most disastrous flotations of all time.

Sir James McKinnon, Ionica's chairman, yesterday became the latest director to resign. Finance director John Edwards, operations director Robert Lindsey and commercial director Derek Laval had all previously left the group.

Nigel Playford, Ionica's ebullient founder stepped down as chief executive in January to be replaced by Mike Biden, a former BT executive. However, Mr Playford still sits on the board as deputy chairman. A clause in his contract reveals that he can only be asked to resign as a director if he owns less than 5 million Ionica shares – half the number he currently holds.

Last night, analysts were gloomy about the company's prospects of finding a saviour. SEC Warburg, Ionica's financial adviser, believed it had travelled the telecoms market for potential investors without much success.

Although Ionica has £60m of

group, Mr Playford had developed a wireless radio technology which could carry telephone signals, Ionica customers would have an aerial fitted to their house, which would transmit and receive phone calls to a base station

several miles away. By not having to dig up the roads, Ionica would be able to save costs. Mr Playford even turned the technology into a slogan: "Waves not wires".

It all seemed to make sense. In a move that should alert all investors to the dangers of forecasting, SEC Warburg predicted that the company would

not pay their bills and were thrown off the network shortly after signing up.

By January this year Ionica was hopelessly behind schedule and its financial plans were in tatters. Banking covenants, which required the company to have 195,000 residential phone customers by the end of 1998 and be able to offer a service to 3.8 million homes, now look madly optimistic. Yesterday, Ionica revealed that at the end of June it had just 49,332 customers and offered service to 2.8 million homes.

Some of this is clearly down to poor management. But Ionica's strategy was also at fault. Fixed radio access technology has been made to work in other parts of the world, not least in Scotland, where Atlantic Telecom, a rival group, has had great success offering a service in Glasgow.

Graham Duncan, Atlantic's executive chairman, points to several flaws in Ionica's strategy. "With the benefit of hindsight, you can say they tried to be all things to all men," he says, referring to the group's determination to build a national network. Atlantic has succeeded by concentrating on building infrastructure in densely populated cities, where each base station covers a wider potential customer base.

Although his comments suggest a way for Ionica to salvage its business, it may be too late. Analysts now believe that potential investors would only be interested in Ionica's national telecom licence and its royalty agreement with Nortel, whereby it gets a small cut of revenues on the wireless technology if it is sold elsewhere. But they point out that both of these could be picked up much more simply and cheaply if the company goes into administration.



ago, when Ionica made a sparkling debut on the Stock Exchange. Its flotation, which raised £14m, was five times oversubscribed and the shares raced to a 10 per cent premium on their first day of trading.

Ionica's strategy was simple. The group planned to develop a national telecom network at a fraction of the cost of the one owned by British Telecom. This would allow it to win over customers by offering steep discounts to BT.

The key to this was Ionica's

technology. In co-operation with Nortel, the Canadian

Mandelson keeps Dome job as new DTI team takes shape

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

for Mr Mandelson to step aside from the dome project as conflicts of interest could arise when he takes decisions relating to companies investing in the dome or sponsoring it.

Announcing the details of the responsibilities of the DTI team yesterday, Mr Mandelson said that in addition to overall responsibility for the Department of Trade and the Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD), he would retain special responsibility for competitiveness and productivity, the information society and the Millennium Dome. He will also be the cabinet minister responsible for science and technology.

There has been pressure

backing the dome, including BT, BSkyB, Tesco, BAA and BA.

The new faces has been decided. Brian Wilson, the new minister for trade, will oversee trade policy, export promotion including inward investment, infrastructure and export projects as well as the ECGD. Kim Howells, who has replaced Nigel Griffiths as parliamentary undersecretary of state, has a broad brief including competition and consumer affairs. That could see him get involved in the future of the Post Office, which comes under the remit of Ian McCartney, who also has employment relations, the minimum wage and shared responsibility for corporate governance with Lord Simon.

Lord Sainsbury, who stepped

down last week as chairman of Sainsbury's to avoid conflict of interest criticism, is named as Minister of Science, which has an additional budget of £1.1bn over the next three years. He has responsibility for the Office of Science and Technology, the research councils and space matters.

Other ministerial responsibilities remain unchanged. John Battle remains in charge of energy, industry and environment issues. Lord Simon stays as minister for trade and competitiveness in Europe, overseeing internal EU issues, the single market and preparations for the euro. Barbara Roche continues as minister for small firms, regional policy including inward investment and the year 2000 computer bug.

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Offer ends 15th August

Hong Kong shares plunge nearly 5%

HONG KONG'S stock market took a heavy hit as fears of the economy plunging into a deep recession took hold yesterday.

From the opening bell the market was anticipating bad news from a government announcement of revised first-quarter gross domestic product figures.

The gloomsters were soon vindicated when it was officially admitted that the original forecast of a 2 per cent fall in GDP in the first quarter, the worst for over a decade, was not pessimistic enough. The government now says that there was a 3.8 per cent decline.

Sir Donald Tsang, the Financial Secretary, also confirmed that the second-quarter figures, to be released soon, are

BY STEPHEN VINES
in Hong Kong

"unlikely to be good". Reflecting a general view that the economy has declined even further in recent months, he said he thought these figures were likely to be "pretty miserable by Hong Kong standards".

In other words the government is finally verging on admitting that this once ever-growing economy has slipped into recession. Tang Kwong-yiu, the chief government economist, also signalled that the outlook for the rest of the year was bleak. He said: "I don't expect any improvement in the Asian environment".

Sir Donald said that he

would have to look again at his March budget forecast, which predicted that the economy would grow by 3.5 per cent this year. No private sector forecaster sees economic growth as likely this year.

Ian Perkin, the chief economist for the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, said that the second-quarter GDP fall could exceed 3 per cent and that no upturn was expected before the fourth quarter.

The economic figures, and a particularly poor performance for HSBC Holding's Hong Kong main subsidiaries (the Hongkong and Hang Seng banks) also announced yesterday, prompted a significant fall in share prices, leaving the blue chip Hang Seng index

almost 5 per cent down on the day, a fall of 383 points.

The sell-off was fuelled by bad news. In Japan, record low opinion poll ratings for the new government and the decline of the yen below 145 to the dollar, confirmed fears that Tokyo was unlikely to lead the way out of the crisis.

A sharp decline in domestic spending, combined with an even bigger fall in the tourist trade lies behind the downward revision of the GDP figures announced yesterday.

"I still can't find any good news," said James Osborn, the director of sales at ING Barings Securities in Hong Kong, "given that it's hard to put even long-term investors in the market at the moment."

Sir Donald said that he

wasn't surprised by the

An investment in the wrong kind of chips



HAMISH MCRAE

The next big game will be the international trade in human capital. Britain is clearly in with a chance

Does this mean we are exporting our expertise? Well, yes, I suppose we are. But the most surprising thing is the nature of our expertise. If you were to say the first thing that come into your head as an area where the UK had no comparative advantage, you might well choose food. British food is not in the eyes of the world, particularly renowned. Which country does have a comparative advantage in that department?

France, of course. So which company provided the food at all the World Cup stadiums this year; or does so at Chariots de Gaulle airport in Paris, or at staff canteens in many French companies? Answer: it is a British company, called Compass.

We are still in the early stages of this process, but it will, I think, become the dominant one in the process of globalisation. Skills like portfolio management, marketing and the development of human capital are rising in importance by comparison with skills like factory organisation.

Indeed this last skill - development of human capital - is becoming the most important of all.

If you look at a typical successful company, its physical assets account for small proportion of its market value. The rest is accounted for by intangible assets. These include brand names (I reckon that, at \$40m, what BMW paid for the Rolls-Royce name was cheap), distribution networks, customer relationships and so on. But add all those up and there is usually still quite a lot unaccounted for. What can that be? Answer: it can only be the intellectual capital of the workforce.

All the crowing about the success of inward investment, and all the anguish when an investment goes belly-up, neglects the fact that these foreign manufacturing plants represent only the present manifestation of globalisation.

Of course it is important and it will remain so. But the next big game will be the international trade in human capital. It is not just "How do you manage clever people?" It is also which country has a cultural advantage in managing that cleverness in such a way as to extract maximum value for shareholders.

At a guess I would think that the US will do well, while Japan will do badly. Britain, for all the shortcomings of our management, is clearly in with a chance.



Apache helicopters will enter service with British forces in 2000

IN BRIEF

Rosneft to be restructured

THE RUSSIAN state-owned oil company, Rosneft, will be restructured financially and its management will be reshuffled to ensure that the company's privatisation does not fail for a third time, the deputy premier Boris Nemtsov, said yesterday.

Gruppo Aiyans, the Russian consultancy appointed last week to manage Rosneft, will overhaul the company's finances, ensure timely payment of its federal budget dues and improve its efficiency ahead of its sell-off on 27 October. Mr Nemtsov said:

WPP Japan pact

WPP, the advertising group that owns the Ogilvy & Mather and J Walter Thompson agencies, has entered into a strategic alliance with Asatsu, Japan's third-largest agency. WPP is paying £200m for a 20 per cent stake in Asatsu, and the Japanese firm will take a 4 per cent stake in WPP.

The two companies said they would work together to provide global services to Japanese clients and take advantage of Japan's lucrative advertising market, where expenditure hit \$4bn (£25bn) last year.

Asatsu recorded profits of \$36.5m last year on billings of \$1.6bn. It announced plans last week to merge with Dai Ichikai Kikaku, the seventh-ranked agency in Japan.

Mobile offers

ONE 2 ONE, the mobile telephone company owned jointly by Cable & Wireless and US West, said it is introducing a series of consumer offers aimed at increasing its market share, including free national calls on selected tariffs.

The company said that customers signing up to One 2 One's "special edition" free national call tariffs between 10 August and 25 October this year will be able to make free calls to fixed-line phones as long as they subscribe to those tariffs. One 2 One also said that between 10 August and 11 October, charges for calls to national or local numbers and to other One 2 One customers will be reduced by 20 per cent to 40p per minute.

PIA fines Kestrel

KESTREL FINANCIAL Management has been reprimanded and ordered to pay a fine of £25,000 for compliance failings, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has announced. The company was also ordered to pay the PIA's costs of £15,000.

Westland venture wins £650m training contract

AVIATION Training International (ATI), a joint venture formed by GKN Westland Helicopters and the US aircraft maker Boeing, has won a contract worth £650m for training on the WAH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday. The 30-year contract is for training air and ground crew to operate and maintain the helicopter.

Lord Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said training facilities including advanced simulators which will reduce the need for airborne and overseas training, will be established at Army Air Corps bases at Middle Wallop, Wattisham and Dishforth, and

the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers base at Arborfield.

Lord Gilbert said the contract places full responsibility on GKN/Boeing to provide a high-quality service in time for Apache's entry into UK service in December 2000.

Training will be highly realistic, allowing air, ground and maintenance crews to train without using aircraft, reducing the need for night flying and armament training. The facilities will substantially reduce wear and tear on the Apache fleet and maximise aircraft availability for operational units," Lord Gilbert said.

Yesterday Compass, the UK's largest contract caterer, confirmed that its Ernest unit had won a MOD contract to supply catering services in Germany.

The contract covers 25,000 staff employed by the British Army and their dependents.

Compass said it is worth a potential £500m in sales over seven years. Shares in Compass rose 33p to 665p.

This is the latest in a series of high-profile contracts for Compass, which include a deal with Royal Phillips Electronics NV covering 11,000 staff. Compass, which operates the Upper Crust chain of sandwich stores, is focusing on new orders after spending £1bn on acquisitions in its last financial year.

Jigsaws falloff hits Zotefoams

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

SHARES in Zotefoams, the former BP chemicals division, slumped to an all-time low yesterday after the foam-maker said the slowdown in its key markets and the strength of sterling would depress profits in the second half.

City analysts scaled down their forecasts for the full-year results and are now predicting profits of 27m, compared with around 23m previously.

The warning caused a plunge in the shares, which lost 28 per cent of their value to close at 152.5p, wiping around £18m from the company's market value.

Zotefoams, which was spun off from BP in 1992, reported a 9 per cent fall in first-half pretax profits to £3.7m on turnover up 2 per cent to £12.3m. The company said the strength of sterling had reduced the interim profit figure by £400,000.

Filtronic pays £26m for US firm

FILTRONIC, the manufacturer of microwave products for global cellular to electronic warfare applications, has agreed to buy an American firm in a deal worth £25m.

Voice-based Filtronic has agreed to acquire the business and some assets of Litton Solid State (LSS), part of Litton Systems of California.

LSS produces semiconductors which are used in microwave integrated circuit assemblies. In the year to July its sales grew by nearly a third to around £24m.

News of the acquisition came as Filtronic, which is also involved in cable telecommunications components, posted greatly improved results and confidently predicted further profits growth in the future.

In the year to May 31 the company made a record pre-tax profit of £11m on sales of £94.1m. This compares with £4.1m on £46.4m in the previous year.

Filtronic employs almost 900 people in Britain, most of them at Shipley near Bradford, although it also has sites at Stew-

arton and Hamilton in Scotland, Wolverhampton and Milton Keynes.

Its operations in the US and Australia have around 550 workers between them.

"During the year, the foundations have been laid to establish a global strategy as the leading supplier of customised microwave and millimetre wave components and subsystems," said the chairman, Professor David Rhodes.

Filtronic shares closed down 16.5p at 420p, having gained 8.2 per cent last week.

Legal Notices

The Insolvency Act 1986 SHEPHERD SERVICES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 19th August 1998 at 4.30pm at the offices of Shepherd Services Ltd, 101-103 High Street, London EC1A 4BN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 or any of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Shepherd Services Limited, 101-103 High Street, London EC1A 4BN, a company registered in England and Wales, has appointed as its liquidator, Gary Collier & Co., 101-103 High Street, London SW1V 6LX, Solicitors to the Company (Ref: OES).

Any creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the winding up of the Company or to object to the appointment of the liquidator should appear at the hearing in person or by Counsel for the purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 1st day of August 1998

Gary Collier & Co.

101-103 High Street, London SW1V 6LX

Solicitors to the Company (Ref: OES)

The Insolvency Act 1986 TWENTYNINTH CENTURY CLEANING LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 26th August 1998 at 4.30pm at the offices of Twenty Ninth Century Cleaning Ltd, 12th Floor, 100 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AA for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 or any of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Twenty Ninth Century Cleaning Ltd, 12th Floor, 100 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AA, a company registered in England and Wales, has appointed as its liquidator, Gary Collier & Co., 101-103 High Street, London SW1V 6LX, Solicitors to the Company (Ref: OES).

Any creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the winding up of the Company or to object to the appointment of the liquidator should appear at the hearing in person or by Counsel for the purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 31st day of July 1998

Rochester London Solicitors for the Petitioners

45 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JZ

Tel: 0171 544 3420

Ref: IAC/SEC/L/140/2

The Insolvency Act 1986 GROMAX PLASTICATURE LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 24th August 1998 at 4.30pm at the offices of Gromax Plasticature Ltd, 200-202 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AA for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 or any of the said Act.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Gromax Plasticature Ltd, 200-202 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AA, a company registered in England and Wales, has appointed as its liquidator, Gary Collier & Co., 101-103 High Street, London SW1V 6LX, Solicitors to the Company (Ref: OES).

Any creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the winding up of the Company or to object to the appointment of the liquidator should appear at the hearing in person or by Counsel for the purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 22nd day of July 1998

By Order of the Board

I.D. LEIGHTON, Director

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For more information:

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52 week	High Low Stock	Price Chg. Yld.	P/E Code	52 week	High Low Stock	Price Chg. Yld.	P/E Code
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	-1.000%			18 19 Cognac Gp	189.00 92.00 189.00	-0.00 0.00	252.12 251.95
484 482 British Wines	250.0 -4.8 44 14.4 19.00			65 61 Cognacette	62.00 40.00 90.00	-0.00 0.00	212.25 209.25
495 255 Balfour (L)	310.0 8.3 12.0 11.00			75 72 Mayfords	219.5 160.10 219.50	-0.00 0.00	212.25 209.25
51 9 DecoStar Div	105.0 0.0 12.0 12.00			87 96 Sperone	150.0 0.0 14 9.9 20.00	-0.00 0.00	209.00 207.00
72 473 Wigens	711.8 -16.4 2.1 20.00			93 97 UPI Gp	60.0 0.0 12 8.2 15.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
73 727 Glaxo	165.0 0.0 12.0 12.00			95 97 Vito	65.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
98 157 Northern Grid	175.5 -1.0 2.2 12.00			100 105 Vito	65.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
BANKS	-0.500%			101 107 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
133 715 Abbey Nat	119.8 8.6 15.7 21.1 21.00			102 108 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
972 474 ABN	519.5 -0.2 21.1 21.1 21.00			103 109 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
1671 682 Allianz Life	880.0 -26.6 8.4 18.1 22.00			104 110 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
172 125 Allianz Re	125.0 0.0 12.0 12.00			105 111 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
880 493 BNL di Scotti	670.0 5.0 13 18.9 36.00			106 112 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
882 277 Bellard	727.0 4.4 18.7 33.0 33.00			107 113 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
247 1282 BNP Paribas (75%)	100.0 0.0 12.0 12.00			108 114 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
505 157 Norrest Grid	175.5 -1.0 2.2 12.00			109 115 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
151 715 Abbey Nat	119.8 8.6 15.7 21.1 21.00			110 116 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
549 715 Abbey Nat	640.0 0.0 12.0 24.0 24.00			111 117 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
1116 682 Allianz Life	880.0 8.6 15.7 21.1 21.00			112 118 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
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1871 581 BNL di Scotti	670.0 5.0 13 18.9 36.00			115 121 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
873 215 BNL di Scotti	475.0 -8.4 13.3 21.1 21.10			116 122 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
200 265 BNL di Scotti	260.0 -1.0 21.1 21.1 21.10			117 123 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
BREWERIES PORT & BEER -0.250%				118 124 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
1778 847 Bass	987.0 -8.3 15.7 19.0 19.00			119 125 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
12 709 Grolsch	600.0 0.0 12.0 12.00			120 126 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
166 133 Berwulf	180.5 -10.0 12.0 12.00			121 127 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
185 10 City C7	116.0 0.0 12.0 12.00			122 128 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
186 10 City C7	116.0 0.0 12.0 12.00			123 129 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
187 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			124 130 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
188 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			125 131 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
189 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			126 132 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
190 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			127 133 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
191 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			128 134 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
192 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			129 135 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
193 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			130 136 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
194 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			131 137 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
195 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			132 138 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
196 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			133 139 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
197 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			134 140 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
198 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			135 141 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
199 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			136 142 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
200 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			137 143 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
201 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			138 144 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
202 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			139 145 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
203 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			140 146 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
204 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			141 147 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
205 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			142 148 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
206 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			143 149 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
207 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			144 150 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
208 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			145 151 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
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210 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			147 153 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
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212 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			149 155 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
213 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			150 156 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
214 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			151 157 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
215 245 Courage P	207.0 -2.9 12.0 12.00			152 158 Northern Grid	175.0 0.0 14 8.2 14.00	-0.00 0.00	195.00 193.00
216 2							

Rogue trades hit Smiths Industries

ROGUE TRADES continue to haunt shares subjected to owner-driven trading. Smiths Industries, the engineering to medical group, is the latest example of spaghetti-fingered deals.

Late on Friday two maverick trades went through at 71p against the 75p price the shares had enjoyed during the rest of the day. Yesterday it was a case of repairing the damage. The shares quickly recaptured a more realistic price and ended the session at 77p, a 5p gain.

The Smiths revival was, however, not enough to prevent another Footsie fall; it lost 27.3 points to 5,809.7. The closing calculation was rather better than seemed likely at one stage when Footsie was nursing an 85 decline. A firmer than expected New York opening helped swing the index.

It was a lacklustre, typically holiday-season session. Trading was modest, with the stock market still in a sweat over the Far East and getting increasingly jittery about Wall Street's ability to continue to defy gravity, particularly if President Clinton comes to grief.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

August is notorious as an uneventful month for equities. And at the moment, there seems little chance of any investment enthusiasm breaking out to make this August an exception.

Footsie, despite its recent decline, remains a significant 67.4 above its year's opening and is still riding at a level well above many of the forecasts made at the start of the year.

Still there are growing fears that blue chips have already seen their best levels of 1998 and will not

make much, if any, further headway in the remainder of the year.

Smiths' 8.3 per cent gain was followed by Pearson, reflecting figures, up 80p to 1,200p. BSkyB, the satellite television station, ended little changed at 496.5p after Pearson let it be known its indirect 4 per cent shareholding, worth some £300m, is likely to be sold in the next six months.

Compass boomed 33p to 665p with bid stories for it from the background. A Ministry of Defence contract, which could produce £500m in turnover in the next seven years, was behind the contract caterer's progress.

GEN also benefited from an MoD order. The shares put on 18p to 75p after a joint venture with Boeing won a £650m 30-year helicopter training contract.

Lasmo stood out in a flat oil sector, adding 8p to 216.5p in brisk trading as takeover speculation returned.

Banks were mostly down in the dumps. HSBC's results left its shares 5p off at 1,490p and sell advice from Credit Lyonnaise had Woolwich floundering 18p off at

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shareholder Bell Atlantic planned to "mortgage" its stake by offering \$3bn notes exchangeable into the C&W shares.

A possible takeover bid lifted TLG, the lighting company, to 24p. Both shares have had a torrid time. Chemical group Zoteoam underlined the problems facing the industry with a trading warning which hit the shares 5p to 152.5p.

Car dealers, despite the apparent August sales boom, were on a dead-end road. A profit warning from Perry did the latest damage. It said growth had skidded to a half, prompting the shares to reverse 24.5p to 181p.

Parkland, a textile group, was another ruffed by trading caution, falling 10p to 30p.

Ionica, the fledgling telephone group, produced unexciting figures but more importantly said it had yet to find an investor willing to pump cash into the group. It currently has around £80m in the bank. The shares, floated at 390p, fell 16.5p to 26.5p.

Cable & Wireless Communications dived 72.5p to 598.5p after it became known that 18.5p per cent

of the shares had been sold to a

shareholder.

Matthew Clark, the cider maker, was sliced 4p to 177.5p as Merrill Lynch took a cautious stance. It sees profits falling from £32.1m to £28.8m this year.

SEAG VOLUME: 648.7m
SEAG TRADES: 61,148
GILTS INDEX: 105.75 +0.45

PETRA DIAMONDS, run by Adonis Pouroulis, put on 4.5p to 139p following an encouraging drilling report in Angola. The company could, some believe, be on the brink of a major development. Another statement on the Angolan exploration could be made within the next two weeks.

GEO INTERACTIVE Media rallied a modest 6p to 65.5p. The shares crashed 52.5p to 62.5p on Friday after a shock trading warning. Earlier this year they almost touched 200p.

ARRIVA, the transport group, advanced 15.5p to 401.5p as stockbroker Albert E Sharp put a break-up value of 450p on the shares and said buy. Profits could be £95m against £100.2m, it said.

ON OFEX Welsh Gold almost halved to 11.5p after admitting there was a "fundamental uncertainty" in its recently published accounts.

HSBC should weather the Far East storm

INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

HSBC HOLDINGS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £39bn, share price: 1490p (+33p)

Trading record 1995 1996 1997 1997 1998

Full year to December Half year

Operating income (£bn) 8.50 9.59 11.36 5.41 6.04

Operating profit (£bn) 3.67 4.52 4.97 2.62 2.23

Earnings per share (p) 94.01 117.6 125.7 65.9 54.5

Dividends per share (p) 32.0 41.0 50.0 20.0 22.2

Exposure to Asia

	Indonesia	South Korea	Thailand
Dec 97	8.50	9.59	11.36
Jun 98	4.11	3.97	2.8
Dec 97	1.8	1.5	2.3
Jun 98	4.1	3.9	2.8

Country risk and cross-border exposure (on balance sheet & mark-to-market of derivatives) (US\$bn)

Non-performing loans (US\$bn)

Specific provisions (US\$bn)

Share price

Pence

2600

2200

1800

1400

1000

600

1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998

Source: Bloomberg

Prospects rosy for Pearson

MARKETS HAVE short memories. A little under two years ago Pearson shares fell on news that Marjorie Scardino was to take over as chief executive of the media group. Now investors will happily take her at her word. Shares in the Financial Times to Baywatch group, which have already risen by almost two-thirds during Ms Scardino's 19-month tenure – added 7p to close at 119.6p yesterday as Pearson outlined a rosy future.

Strong first-half results, which showed operating profits from continuing operations up 30 per cent to £91.8m on sales ahead by 5 per cent to £945m, were partly behind the rise. Operating profits at the FT rose 17 per cent as its £100m push into overseas markets lifted circulation. And Pearson Television, look

helped by acquisitions, boosted profits 49 per cent.

Yet investors are also willing to take a fair amount on trust. Penguin had a weak first half but summer releases from the best-selling thriller writers Patricia Cornwell and Tom Clancy should make up the shortfall. Although the educational publishing arm made its usual recruitment specialist, which changed its name from CRT earlier this year, has increased its turnover and profits almost fivefold thanks to a string of aggressive acquisitions and a booming market.

Last year pre-tax profits – boosted by eight bolt-on buys – rose 50 per cent to £13.1m while turnover was up 46 per cent to £279m. Most of this growth was due to the explosion in demand for IT engineers, with profits in the division more than double last year's levels.

Spring maintains that just a fraction of the increase was due to the millennium bug and the introduction of the euro – two of the usual suspects for the IT recruitment boom. Instead, the group insists that most of the advance was due to firms moving towards more sophisticated IT systems.

However, this is partly a knock-on effect of the millennium bug, and it is worth asking whether Spring's IT recruitment will hold up after the year 2000.

Even though the group's

recruitments demand will remain strong, a slowdown from the present steady growth rates is almost certain and yesterday's 16p fall in the share price to 343.5p reflects the market's worries about the end of the bonanza.

However, Spring is not dependent on IT. The group plans to expand its educational and general recruitment side through acquisitions. Provided that it does not overlap, this should give it a more balanced business mix. At 27 times 1998 forecast earnings of around £28m, the shares are a strong hold.

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SPORT

TOUR DE FRANCE 1998: HOW THE DRUGS CRISIS UNFOLDED

**11 July, Prologue**

The Tour begins in Dublin three days after a masseur for the Festina team, Willy Voet, is stopped at the France-Belgium border. His car is found to contain more than 400 doping products, including EPO, a drug that increases oxygen in red blood cells. Voet claims they are for personal use. Britain's Chris Boardman (left) wins the first yellow jersey by winning the prologue time trial.

12 July, Stage 1

Festina call in a lawyer after Voet is charged with possession of banned substances.

13 July, Stage 2

Boardman crashes out of the Tour after suffering facial injuries and a broken wrist in a fall.

14 July, Stage 3

Festina formally deny any wrongdoing after Voet changes his story and admits the doping products were for team use, not his own.

**15 July, Stage 4**

The Festina director, Bruno Roussel (below), and team doctor, Erik Ryckaert, are detained and questioned by police. The Tour director says there is no reason to expel Festina from the race.

16 July, Stage 5

Cycling's governing body, the International Cycling Union (UCI), suspends Roussel for failing to submit a report on the drugs affair within 24 hours.

17 July, Stage 6

Roussel admits he systematically supplied illegal drugs to the Festina team to improve performances under strict medical control. Roussel and Ryckaert are placed under formal investigation and detained. The Tour expels the Festina team.

18 July, Stage 7

Richard Virenque, the Festina team leader, and his fellow riders fall in a last-minute plea to be allowed to race.

**19 July, Stage 8**

In a joint statement, doctors working with the 20 remaining teams insist that "the prime consideration of the doctor has always been the health of the riders".

20 July, Stage 9

The Dutch TVM team are warned that they will be expelled if their riders are found to have taken drugs. It is reported that in March French customs officials found 104 syringes primed with EPO in a TVM car driven by mechanics towards the Belgian border.

21 July, Stage 10

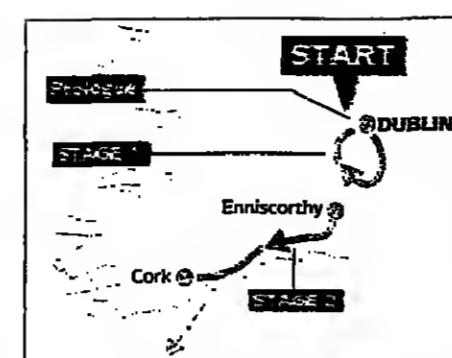
Ryckaert's lawyer says the Festina team operated a system under which riders were obliged to pay part of their win bonuses into a fund to buy banned substances. Casino's Rodolfo Massi (left) wins the first mountain stage in the Pyrenees.

**22 July, Stage 11**

Boardman blames the amount of money in cycling for the drugs crisis. "There's so much more money involved - and the temptations are there," he says.

23 July, Rest day

Nine Festina riders are held for questioning by police in Lyons. TVM's team director and doctor are detained and questioned in Pamiers in the Pyrenees.

**24 July, Stage 12**

Riders delay the race by two hours with a sit-down protest (right) at police investigations. It is reported that customs officers have found banned products during a search of TVM vehicles and hotel rooms. TVM's director, Cees Priem, and doctor, Alexander Mikhailov, are jailed and placed under formal investigation. Three Festina riders confess to using banned substances.

**25 July, Stage 13**

A UCI official meets riders and agrees to a summit meeting of leading officials, team riders and managers to discuss the drugs issue.

26 July, Stage 14

Alex Zule, one of Festina's leading riders, says that pressure from sponsors led to his taking EPO.

27 July, Stage 15

Racing for once takes centre stage as Marco Pantani (below) takes the yellow jersey with a memorable victory at Les Deux Alpes.

**28 July, Stage 16**

Police raid the TVM team hotel in Albertville. Four riders are taken to a hospital and given lengthy medical tests, including the taking of blood, urine and hair samples. TVM's director and team doctor are charged with breaking Customs law, public health regulations and helping others use substances that enhance physical performance. Richard Virenque, Festina's lead rider, continues to protest his innocence.

29 July, Stage 17

TVM riders taken to hospital the evening before are released at 2 a.m. and complain of being treated like animals. Four teams - ONCE, Banesto, Riso Scotti and Vitaldo - pull out and the remaining riders stop the stage to Alex les Bains twice to protest at the treatment of TVM. They ride the course but refuse to race and the stage is annulled. Casino and ONCE hotel rooms are raided and officials are taken away for questioning.

**30 July, Stage 18**

Massi, who was the leading mountain climber, is detained by police for questioning and is prevented from racing. The ONCE team doctor, Nicolas Terrados, is also detained. Kelme, the final Spanish team left in the race, pull out, along with some individuals, including the former world champion Luc Leblanc.

31 July, Stage 19

Massi and Terrados are placed under formal investigation. The remaining riders of the TVM team drop out. There are 14 teams left from the original 21 and fewer than 100 riders from the original 189.

**1 August, Stage 20**

Jan Ullrich wins the penultimate stage but is unable to make up enough time on Pantani, the leader.

2 August, Stage 21

The Tour ends in Paris. Pantani, the winner, claims he may have won "the cleanest Tour" as a result of the police investigations.

3 August

A TVM masseur is jailed and 14 of the team's riders and officials, including Sergei Ivanov (right) are questioned by police.

What now for Tour drug pedlars?

AFTER ITS blackest three weeks, the Tour de France is over. The riders, sponsors, officials, and fans have departed, but French justice will not go away.

In Lille, at the hub of the drugs investigation, prosecutors are preparing a "battle plan", and the French National Assembly will debate a new, tougher law against doping in sport. The sports minister, Marie-George Buffet, is calling for heavier custodial sentences after the detention of three team doctors, two team managers, two masseurs, and one rider following police operations during the Tour.

If nothing else the scandal has spurred action throughout sport with the International Olympic Committee meeting on 20 August, and a November get-together of riders, managers, and top officials to search for a "clean" sport.

Cycling's governing body, the Union Cycliste Internationale, has, over some 30 years, punished riders caught by doping controls. They never went for the suppliers and those who administered the drugs.

Yet since 1989 it has been a criminal offence under French law to "incite, facilitate, use, or administer

doping products to athletes." New penalties will mean five years and a 500,000 French francs (£51,000) fine for the purveyor, and seven years plus a fine of a million francs for inciting the use of drugs.

Only France has this law and the Tour and its teams felt the force of it when the Festina team's Belgian masseur, Willy Voet, was arrested and charged with smuggling doping products into France almost a month ago.

Prosecutors in Lille plan to in-

vestigate more riders and managers from other teams, plus those in high positions in cycling. "We want to have enough elements to prove that the world of cycling knew what was going on," a justice source said, adding that they were not short of offers of potentially useful information.

Fears that the Tour could not sur-

vive the scandal subsided as the 85th edition of France's most important annual event reached Paris. The Tour is big business, rating third in size and prestige behind the World Cup and the Olympic Games. It works with high-profile companies such as Fiat and Coca-Cola, who, along with the French bank Credit Ly-

onnais and Champion supermarket, provided between 17m and 20m francs of the Tour's budget of 250m.

There has already been a flicker of doubt about the sport's image with the cancellation of the first big-money *après-Tour* race. A source at one sponsor said: "It is much too early to appreciate the consequences, but

there is anxiety about the notoriety that has come to the Tour. We do not want to make hasty judgements but we are very attentive about how the problems will be controlled."

Nicolas Chaine, the communications director of Credit Lyonnais, told the French newspaper *Le Monde*: "I am not being hypocritical but it is obvious no one can race day after day on mineral water and salad. The substances used by the riders need to be identified. The Tour is solid but it needs appropriate controls."

The attitude of team sponsors could affect how often they race in France. The speed with which four Spanish teams on the Tour fled over the border, and the decision by riders with the Dutch team TVM could hint at an answer to that question.

Marco Pantani claimed that he had won "the cleanest Tour" because police raids had made it so. He has an offer of a million francs a month for three years, but at the back end of the field 10,000 francs a month is a common wage.

He suggested that if riders were willing to take drugs "they find themselves among the best, winning much money, and enhancing their sponsor's image. Those who don't find their performances lagging along with their salaries. They are almost condemned to take the drug."

That is the philosophy of many in the sport. If the French justice system can crack down, then those who control cycling should toughen up too. They could start by overhauling the crowded racing calendar which runs from February to October, and the points-ranking system which governs entry into the Tour and can determine a rider's salary. That can tempt a weary rider to turn to artificial aids.

at Lille, the centre of the investigation. His lawyer Arsène Rijckaert (no relation) claimed that Rijckaert had said that the team had a "slush" fund for the purchase of drugs. Into which riders had to contribute.

CEES PRIEM

The manager of Dutch team TVM, was taken for questioning on 23 July after a case was reopened concerning a customs stop-and-search in March when 104 vials of erythropoietin (EPO) were found in a TVM car on the motorway near Reims. Still in custody charged with drug offences.

ANDREI MIKHAILOV

Russian team doctor of TVM, is also still detained after products found in his room during a police raid were taken for testing.

JAN MOORS

TVM masseur, transferred to Reims for questioning yesterday by judge Odile Madrolle, who is in charge of the investigation into the March discovery of drugs.

RODOLFO MASSI

Italian rider with the Casino team, who was leading the King of the Mountains and who won the stage into Luchon. Was taken for questioning on 30 July after a police raid discovered quantity of drugs in his hotel room at Chambery. Transferred to Lille for questioning by the examining magistrate, Patrick Kell. Charged with importing and facilitating the use of doping substances, and importing and offering drugs. Still in custody.

NICOLAS TERRADOS

Doctor of the ONCE team - which includes the world No 1 ranked rider Laurent Jalabert, of France. Detained at Chambery and transferred to Lille for questioning. Still held.

Hill strengthens his bargaining position

MOTOR RACING

BV DERICK ALLSOP

at Hockenheim

THE HECTIC schedule of back-to-back races completed, time now for some serious negotiations and that will relish the opportunity more than Damoo Hill.

Britain's former world champion, under pressure to prove his worth to Jordan, responded here on Sunday with fourth place in the German Grand Prix, delivering his first points to the team.

His manager says that by the time Hill reports for his next racing duty in Hungary on Thursday week, he hopes to have a new contract in place for 1999.

Jordan have been coy about the state of play with Hill, making optimistic noises about an agreement yet scarcely camouflaging the fact they do not wish to pay him another £5m. What is more, there is a feeling among Formula One's hierarchy that some wages are again escalating out of control.

Hill, at 37, is the sport's senior citizen. Younger, less experienced drivers are itching for the chance to demonstrate their ability in better cars, and the Jordan is now emerging as one of the better cars.

The form of Ralf Schumacher, his team-mate, has compounded Hill's plight. The 23-year-old Schumacher put the team on the scoreboard with points at Silverstone and Zeltweg, and outpaced his partner in quali-

fyng here. However, he was undone by an ambitious but misguided two-stop strategy in the race, while Hill picked up the team's standard and gleefully frustrated his old adversary Michael Schumacher in the process.

Hill has been tormented by bouts of self-doubt this season and would consider retiring gracefully rather than expose himself to the prospect of humiliation. But Sunday's composed performance will have bolstered his belief, revived his enthusiasm and perhaps made others reconsider his value.

His option to stay at Jordan has lapsed, leaving the team to decide if they wish to exercise theirs. They understand they do not have to pay him the same retainer next year and patently would prefer not to. They want to invest more of their money in technical development, which they claim is to the long-term advantage of team and driver alike.

Ultimately, the buck could pass to the team's sponsors. If they feel Hill - who has been linked with Williams and the new British American Racing team - is a necessary ingredient of their marketing strategy, then they may offer to foot the extra bill.

With Ralf Schumacher's management intent on exploring options elsewhere, notably at Williams and Sauber, uncertainties appear to hang over both Jordan's drivers. But the team owner, Eddie Jordan, said: "We won't lose both our drivers. That definitely will not happen."

Now that David Coulthard, runner-up here to his team-mate, Mika

Hakkinen, the championship leader, has been confirmed at McLaren-Mercedes for next season and Eddie Irvine has again committed himself to Ferrari, Johnny Herbert is endeavouring to safeguard the United Kingdom's quota of Formula One

drivers. He has been knocking on doors at Williams and Stewart-Ford with greater intensity since his fall-out with Sauber and his team-mate, Jean Alesi, in the British Grand Prix at Silverstone.

Sauber maintain Herbert could stay next year and so does Alesi, who already has a contract. But what about the French-Sicilian's ultimatum: "It's him or me next year"? The mercurial Alesi shrugs his shoulders and says: "That was three weeks ago."

● President Nelson Mandela will meet the head of Formula One, Bernie Ecclestone, on 19 August to discuss plans for a South African Grand Prix next year. Last week, the South African cabinet approved legislation that would outlaw all tobacco sponsorship as well as smoking in public places. The draft law will come before parliament later this year.

Ecclestone has been known to award races to countries where tobacco advertising is banned, but usually demands greater financial guarantees from the governments involved. South Africa is one of 17 countries that have lodged guarantees for the existing 16 dates on the Formula One calendar. The last grand prix staged in the country, at Kyalami near Johannesburg, was in 1993.

Hill: Sponsors may foot bill



Hopes high for Skelton's mount

Britain's equestrian success could depend on the latest showjumper to arrive at the Warwickshire yard. By Genevieve Murphy

ONE UNFORTUNATE outcome of David Broome sending a horse to Nick Skelton is the cumbersome new name that comes with a two-word sponsors' prefix. A splendid Irish-bred gelding now jumps under the name of Virtual Village Hopes are High.

Broome does not care for the prefix either - "I try to avoid looking at that bit," he says - but he has accepted the inevitable desire of Skelton's sponsors at Virtual Village for their name to be attached to the horses that he rides in competition. At home in his Warwickshire yard, Skelton abbreviates the name to one easy syllable: Hopes.

The new partnership, which looks set to prove a huge success, will be on the Great Britain team at this week's Kerrygold Duhlin Horse Show. Their fortunes in Ireland will, one imagines, be followed ruefully by the slightly built 23-year-old Andrew Davies, who lost the ride to Skelton having partnered the horse throughout last year and during the early part of this season.

"My heart goes out to Andrew. I know he's bitterly disappointed," Broome said at Hickstead last month, after Skelton and Hopes are High, then in their first week together, had finished second in the King George V Gold Cup.

Broome had decided on a change of jockey because he felt that his horse needed somebody a little heavier with stronger legs as he began tackling bigger courses. "Andrew's a lovely lad with a great future in the sport. I hope he'll forgive me eventually."

Broome bought the horse in Scotland four years ago. Having called previous mount Last Resort, because it expressed his feelings at the time, he named the new purchase Hopes are High for similar reasons. He was ridden by Broome in his early contests when he proved to have the great asset of being naturally careful.

Hopes are High also has a wonderful temperament. "He's level-headed, a real peaceful guy, you couldn't ask for one that's more honest and genuine," Broome said. Skelton, who described him as "uncomplicated" and "a lovely horse to ride", would go along with that.

Given the rain that had drenched the Hickstead showground before the event, Broome had been in two

minds as to whether his horse would run in the big contest. "But when I walked the course, I decided that the ground was unpleasant rather than dangerous, so he took his chance."

Although he confessed to being a nervous onlooker, Broome was delighted with the polished performance of Hopes are High, which left Skelton as runner-up to Robert Smith on Senator Mighty Blue. "It's lovely to see your faith justified - my horse made it look as though the ground was perfect," Broome said.

The Welshman may not, however, be a proud owner too much longer. Part of Broome's livelihood comes from producing young horses and selling them on and (given the ever-increasing demand for talented show jumpers) it will not be that long before he receives an offer for Hopes are High that seems too good to refuse. Ideally, he would like a wealthy entrepreneur to buy the horse for Skelton to continue riding.

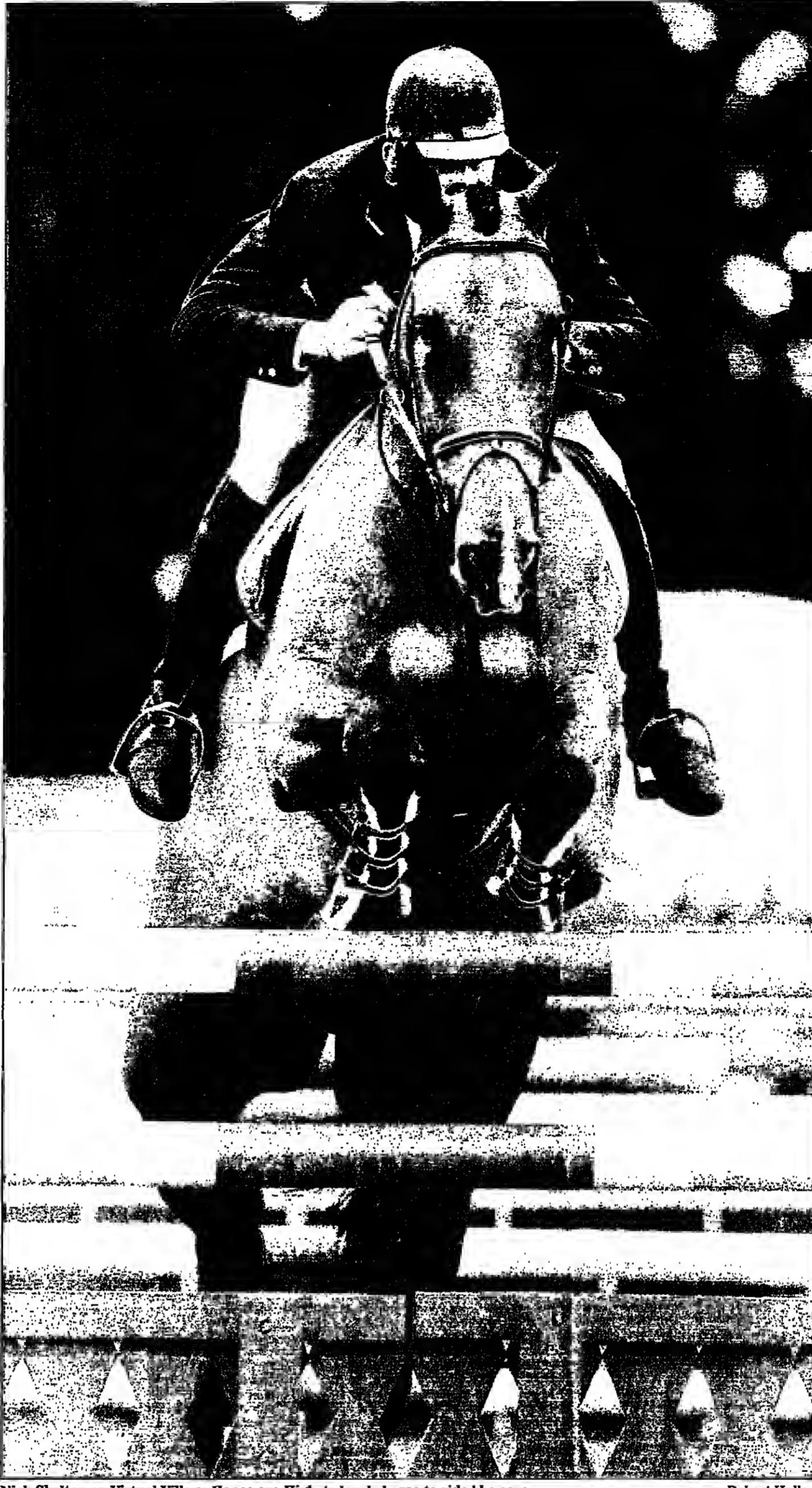
The Great Britain selectors, looking so desperately for good young horses to replace those who

have reached their declining years, would be happy with that outcome too. And so would Skelton, who already thinks that Broome's horse could be a contender for this year's World Equestrian Games. He will also be the ideal age by the time of the Sydney Olympics.

There is, of course, many a slip between great expectations and their fruition. Shortcomings could be exposed on the lovely green turf of the Dublin showground in the Samving Nations Cup on Friday, but no one can doubt that the horse (now a nine-year-old) is ready for such an examination of his talents.

Hopes are High has already jumped in one Nations Cup with Davies, who would have achieved a double clear round with him in Lisbon this year if he had not had the last fence down in the second round. As it was, he still had by far the best score of the British team, which also included Skelton on Giselle.

Broome has always had a penchant for Irish-bred horses and he likes the idea of them going back to jump in their native land. He will be an anxious spectator again when he watches Skelton ride his horses this week, but his hopes are still high.



Nick Skelton on Virtual Village Hopes are High, 'a lovely horse to ride,' he says

Robert Hallam

Henry Paul 'not on Bradford list'

RUGBY LEAGUE

By Dave Hadfield

BRADFORD HAVE denied any intention of signing Henry Paul despite the New Zealand international saying that he expects to leave Wigan and would like to link up with his brother, Robbie.

"He is not on our list," insisted the Bulls' chairman, Chris Caisley, yesterday, although any fans in the country would relish seeing the brothers alongside each other.

Henry feels his days at Wigan are numbered following the signing of the Australian Greg Florimo next season and says that a move to Bradford would be his first choice.

The whereabouts of the Paul

brothers, plus Leeds' Richie Blackmore, in early October will be one of the main topics of conversation when administrators from the league-playing nations hold "an informal meeting" in Sydney later this month.

New Zealand could call on all three for their Tests against Australia on 9 and 16 October, but their clubs are likely to be involved in the Super League play-offs at the same time.

As well as that, the game needs to organise an international calendar to replace the one wrecked by the Super League war and its aftermath. The complication is that Super League in this country, in the persons of its chairman, Caisley, and managing director, Maurice Lindsay,

is refusing to have anything to do with re-forming the pre-schism international board that ruled on such matters.

Caisley has turned down an invitation to go to Sydney, but the Rugby League's leading figures, Sir Rodney Walker and Neil Tunnicliffe, are going anyway.

Lindsay is claiming to have support from the South Pacific nations, bankrolled and subsequently dumped by Super League, but the Rugby League said yesterday that its information was that all of them would be attending this month's meeting.

The job of the former Kiwi Test captain Graeme West as coach of Widnes is looking precarious following his side's 63-4 defeat by Hull

KR on Sunday. Widnes are two places from the foot of the First Division and the club's directors are expected to discuss the position of the former Wigan coach at a meeting tomorrow night.

West has been in charge since May last year, having been sacked after refusing to move upstairs as football manager at Wigan three months earlier.

Bradford are playing down speculation that Matthew Elliott is on the way out of the club after he and his side were booted off the field following their latest defeat, by Sheffield.

Elliott, who recently signed a new two-year contract, hinted afterwards that he might reconsider his future, but the club said that it did not expect any changes.

Crutchley's return boosts flagging English attack

HOCKEY

By Bill Colwill

GUY FORDHAM, the 23-year-old Army doctor from Hounslow who missed the World Cup because of exams, was yesterday recalled to the England squad for the Commonwealth Games. Robbie Crutchley, the National League's leading goalscorer for the past three seasons who missed the World Cup through injury, also returns. There is, however, no room for Guildford's

Olympian, Danny Hall, who also missed the World Cup due to exam commitments.

There are two other changes to the World Cup squad that finished sixth in Utrecht. In comes the 18-year-old Michael Johnson, and Stuart Head, aged 25. Missing are Nicky Thompson, Andy Humphrey, Jason Lee and, following the change in the substitute rule, the penalty corner specialist, Callum Giles.

Having experienced Malaysian conditions - 10 of the squad were in Ipoh earlier this year - England's chances of a medal in the first

feat in South Africa - where England converted just three penalty corners from 27 attempts - there was an incentive to include Giles.

The defence will be strengthened by the recall of Julian Hallis and Justin Pitcock will give the midfield more shape. But it is the lack of goals which will be causing England's coach, Barry Dancer, most concern.

With the strikers unable to find the net during the recent 2-1 series de-

feats to feature hockey must be good. England's main challengers in the pool games should be Pakistan, to whom they lost at the World Cup.

Canada and Malaysia are also capable of providing an upset. Kenya and Bangladesh complete the six-team pool. The second pool contains Australia, India, Wales, Trinidad, New Zealand and South Africa.

ENGLAND SQUAD: A. Maweni (Captain), D. Hall (Goalkeeper); J. Pitcock (1st); J. Hallis (2nd); S. Head (3rd); M. Johnson (4th); R. Crutchley (5th); R. Garcia (Reserve); R. Morgan (Reserve); J. Pitcock (All Cannock); D. Lockes, S. Head (Fox Gresham); G. Fordham (Hounslow).

RACING RESULTS

RIPON

2.15: (Ef selling handicap) 1. SUPPORT 1. Newton 9-1 2. Safe Baby 1. Wards 9-1 3. Handy 1. Powley 7-1 4. Silk Cottage 1. Bestland 16-1 Also: 7-1 Jt Fav Camerton (6th), 16-2 Present 2. Correct 5-1 M. Morris 12-1 3. Long Exposure 1. P. Morris 1-1 Another Night 14-1 4. Stirling 1. Young Ben 16-1 Trainer's Surprise 2.1 Colster 20-1 Swan At Whalley 23-1 Calm Drive 2.1 Colster 25-1 Imperial Honey (6th), 25-1 Millionaire 2.1 Star 25-1 Tommy Tempest 40-1 Your The Limit.

22 raw m/c, shd, 1/4, 1/4, (winner bay colt by St. Peter's Grand) out of On & Off, trained by D. McDonald, placed £250, £150, £100, £50, Dual forecast £250, CSF: £250. Totals: £1,000, £300, Dual forecast £400, CSF: £250. Totals: £1,000, £300, Dual forecast £400, CSF: £250. Jeudipot: £70,000, part won. Pool of £183,377 closed forward to Bad today.

Rule 4: No bettor may withdraw a bet under £200. Place 6: £21,182, Place 5: £554.

RACE 1

Also: 13-2 Alpha (Str), 13-2 Lady Boar (Str), 12-1 Bodhi Street (4th).

6 raw hd, 3/4, 1, 10, B (winner bay colt by Muscill) out of Bomber, trained by O. Loder, Newmarket, for Mr & Mrs Abdul Aziz Bin Said, Total: win £180, places £130, £350, Dual forecast: £260, CSF: £250.

4.45: (m maiden)

1. CIRCUS 1. Dettori 4-7 Fav 2. Blow Me A Kiss 1. McKeown 2-1 Also: 8-2 Falcon Crest (4th).

1. Your The Limit.

22 raw m/c, shd, 1/4, 1/4, (winner bay colt by St. Peter's Grand) out of On & Off, trained by D. McDonald, placed £250, £150, £100, £50, Dual forecast £250, CSF: £250. Totals: £1,000, £300, Dual forecast £400, CSF: £250. Jeudipot: £70,000, part won. Pool of £183,377 closed forward to Bad today.

Rule 4: No bettor may withdraw a bet under £200. Place 6: £21,182, Place 5: £554.

NEWTON ABBOT

2.00: 1. MASTER MILLFIELD (R Dunwoody) 3-1; 2. More Bills 12-1; 3. 1. Newton 9-1; 4. 2.1 Fav Camerton 11-1; 5. 1. Newton 11-1; 6. 1. Newton 15-1; 7. 1. Newton 16-1; 8. 1. Newton 17-1; 9. 1. Newton 18-1; 10. 1. Newton 19-1; 11. 1. Newton 20-1; 12. 1. Newton 21-1; 13. 1. Newton 22-1; 14. 1. Newton 23-1; 15. 1. Newton 24-1; 16. 1. Newton 25-1; 17. 1. Newton 26-1; 18. 1. Newton 27-1; 19. 1. Newton 28-1; 20. 1. Newton 29-1; 21. 1. Newton 30-1; 22. 1. Newton 31-1; 23. 1. Newton 32-1; 24. 1. Newton 33-1; 25. 1. Newton 34-1; 26. 1. Newton 35-1; 27. 1. Newton 36-1; 28. 1. Newton 37-1; 29. 1. Newton 38-1; 30. 1. Newton 39-1; 31. 1. Newton 40-1; 32. 1. Newton 41-1; 33. 1. Newton 42-1; 34. 1. Newton 43-1; 35. 1. Newton 44-1; 36. 1. Newton 45-1; 37. 1. Newton 46-1; 38. 1. Newton 47-1; 39. 1. Newton 48-1; 40. 1. Newton 49-1; 41. 1. Newton 50-1; 42. 1. Newton 51-1; 43. 1. Newton 52-1; 44. 1. Newton 53-1; 45. 1. Newton 54-1; 46. 1. Newton 55-1; 47. 1. Newton 56-1; 48. 1. Newton 57-1; 49. 1. Newton 58-1; 50. 1. Newton 59-1; 51. 1. Newton 60-1; 52. 1. Newton 61-1; 53. 1. Newton 62-1; 54. 1. Newton 63-1; 55. 1. Newton 64-1; 56. 1. Newton 65-1; 57. 1. Newton 66-1; 58. 1. Newton 67-1; 59. 1. Newton 68-1; 60. 1. Newton 69-1; 61. 1. Newton 70-1; 62. 1. Newton 71-1; 63. 1. Newton 72-1; 64. 1. Newton 73-1; 65. 1. Newton 74-1; 66. 1. Newton 75-1; 67. 1. Newton 76-1; 68. 1. Newton 77-1; 69. 1. Newton 78-1; 70. 1. Newton 79-1; 71. 1. Newton 80-1; 72. 1. Newton 81-1; 73. 1. Newton 82-1; 74. 1. Newton 83-1; 75. 1. Newton 84-1; 76. 1. Newton 85-1; 77. 1. Newton 86-1; 78. 1. Newton 87-1; 79. 1. Newton 88-1; 80. 1. Newton 89-1; 81. 1. Newton 90-1; 82. 1. Newton 91-1; 83. 1. Newton 92-1; 84. 1. Newton 93-1; 85. 1. Newton 94-1; 86. 1. Newton 95-1; 87. 1. Newton 96-1; 88. 1. Newton 97-1; 89. 1. Newton 98-1; 90. 1. Newton 99-1; 91. 1. Newton 100-1; 92. 1. Newton 101-1; 93. 1. Newton 102-1; 94. 1. Newton 103-1; 95. 1. Newton 104-1; 96. 1. Newton 105-1; 97. 1. Newton 106-1; 98. 1. Newton 107-1; 99. 1. Newton 108-1; 100. 1. Newton 109-1; 101. 1. Newton 110-1; 102. 1. Newton 111-1; 103. 1. Newton 112-1; 104. 1. Newton 113-1; 105. 1. Newton 114-1; 106. 1. Newton 115-1; 107. 1. Newton 116-1; 108. 1. Newton 117-1; 109. 1. Newton 118-1; 110. 1. Newton 119-1; 111. 1. Newton 120-1; 112. 1. Newton 121-1; 113. 1. Newton 122-1; 114. 1. Newton 123-1; 115. 1. Newton 124-1; 116. 1. Newton 125-1; 117. 1. Newton 126-1; 118. 1. Newton 127-1; 119. 1. Newton 128-1; 120. 1. Newton 129-1; 121. 1. Newton 130-1; 122. 1. Newton 131-1; 123. 1. Newton 132-1; 124. 1. Newton 133-1; 125. 1. Newton 134-1; 126. 1. Newton 135-1; 127. 1. Newton 136-1; 128. 1. Newton 137-1; 129. 1. Newton 138-1; 130. 1. Newton 139-1; 131. 1. Newton 140-1; 132. 1. Newton 141-1; 133. 1. Newton 142-1; 134. 1. Newton 143-1; 135. 1. Newton 144-1; 136. 1. Newton 145-1; 137. 1. Newton 146-1; 138. 1. Newton 147-1; 139. 1. Newton 148-1; 140. 1. Newton 149-1; 141. 1. Newton 150-1; 142. 1. Newton 151-1; 143. 1. Newton 152-1; 144. 1. Newton 153-1; 145. 1. Newton 154-1; 146. 1. Newton 155-1; 147. 1. Newton 156-1; 148. 1. Newton 157-1; 149. 1. Newton 158-1; 150. 1. Newton 159-1; 151. 1. Newton 160-1; 152. 1. Newton 161-1; 153. 1. Newton 162-1; 154. 1. Newton 163-1; 155. 1. Newton 164-1; 156. 1. Newton 165-1; 157. 1. Newton 166-1; 158. 1. Newton 167-1; 159. 1. Newton 168-1; 160. 1. Newton 169-1; 161. 1. Newton 170-1; 162. 1. Newton 171-1; 163. 1. Newton 172-1; 164. 1. Newton 173-1; 165. 1. Newton 174-1; 166. 1. Newton 175-1; 167. 1. Newton 176-1; 168. 1. Newton 177-1; 169. 1. Newton 178-1; 170. 1. Newton 179-1; 171. 1. Newton 180-1; 172. 1. Newton 181-1; 173. 1. Newton 182-1; 174. 1. Newton 183-1; 175. 1. Newton 184-1; 176. 1.

McCall's heart leads him home

Phil Shaw meets a midfielder making an emotive return to his first club, a bond sealed by far more than football

AS ONE who played for Bradford City on the day of the fire which left 56 supporters dead and his own father badly burned, Stuart McCall is painfully aware that football is not a matter of life and death. Yet he approaches each game as if it is, which is why clubs were queuing up to relieve Rangers of the Scotland midfielder this summer.

That Bradford, mid-table in the First Division last season, beat off more opulent opposition owed much to McCall's affection for the club he first joined 17 years ago. If what he terms an "emotional attachment" makes him an oddity in these days of restless players and rapacious agents, the feeling among the fans is mutual.

Around 500 of them packed into McCall's Suite - he is perhaps the only current player to have a hospitality facility named in his honour - to welcome him back to Valley Parade. When Bradford's club shop invited him in to sign copies of his autobiography, a session scheduled for a couple of hours before lunch ended in late afternoon with writer's cramp.

"The reception has been overwhelming, embarrassing and humiliating," admits McCall. "The funny thing is that although I've been away 10 years, I recognised virtually every face. It was the same in our first pre-season friendly at Farsley Celtic."

The sensation of coming full circle was especially strong at Farsley, the outfit with whom McCall soldiered on after all his Leeds City Boys colleagues were snapped up by League clubs. When he got his break with Bradford, the crowd roared with laughter because he was so small and he wore big, billowing shorts.

Sartorial considerations were forgotten once the size of his heart became apparent. Bradford stormed to the Old Third Division title in 1985, only for their coronation to turn into one of sport's blackest days when James engulfed the main stand.

McCall recalls how he drove around West Yorkshire's hospitals - in his kit - until he found his father, Andy, a former Leeds player. The bond with Bradford grew so intense that he passed up opportunities to better himself until 1988.

In the meantime he was selected for the Under-21 squads of England and Scotland (his father's birthplace) on the same day. Having opted for England under pressure



Stuart McCall back in the colours of Bradford City, where his career began and where he hopes to deal with the 'unfinished business' of promotion Andrew Varley

from the club, he realised his "mistake" and pretended not to hear instructions ordering him on as a last-minute substitute in Turkey so as to be free to switch allegiance.

Rangers, who rescued him from an unfulfilling sojourn at Everton, he became the "holding" player whose discipline freed Paul Gascoigne and others. "I used to get fined by Walter Smith, the manager if I got in our opponents' 18-yard box," he jokes.

McCall had a year left on his Ibrox deal, but it was time to move on. "Everything was breaking up. It was the end of an era with pals like Ally McCoist, Ian Durrant, Andy Goram and the gaffer gone or going."

The new manager, Dick Advocaat, wanted to bring in fresh faces. At 34 I didn't want to be kicking my

heels in the reserves. The shame was the way it ended, without a trophy for the first time in my seven years.

"But the last night we were together we were able to look back on a fantastic era. With the Bosman ruling, I doubt you'll see the bulk of a side stay together like that again."

McCall cites the European Cup double over Leeds, his boyhood heroes, as the highlight of his time in Glasgow. "People forget we'd have reached the final if we'd won at Mar-selles instead of drawing. With a mostly Scottish side we went 3,000 and when I first came here and 16,000 last season.

"There's also more money around now, though I don't think we'll be competing in the transfer market with the Sunderlands, Wolves and Birminghams. But either did Charlton last season, or Barnsley the year before."

For the manager, Paul Jewell, his qualities transcended any qualms about recruiting someone who has made no secret of his ambition to manage Bradford. McCall has a three-year contract and is keen to give full value.

"I may have lost a hit in the leg department but hopefully I can

make up for that with the experience I've gained and my reading of the game. And I'm as enthusiastic as ever."

Is there a danger, after Ibrox's buying bluenoses and the Old Firm rivalry, that he might struggle to psyche himself up for fixtures such as Saturday's opener against Stockport? "I see it as a new challenge. The stadiums have changed drastically since I last played there. Anyway, apart from Celtic and to an extent Hearts and Aberdeen, Scottish crowds weren't big."

The only Scot to appear in the 1990 World Cup finals plus the following two European Championships, McCall would love to add to his 40 caps but is not holding his breath. He claims he and McCoist were left out of France '98 because

Craig Brown feared they might be tempted to "party", a suggestion he finds "hurtful".

One of his most treasured memories concerns the otherwise unhappy day at Wembley two years ago against England. Much of the pre-match hype centred on which of three Scots would end up swapping shirts with Gascoigne. McCall, whose daughter Carly is devoted to the Geordie jester, was one of them.

"At half-time I was going down the tunnel when I heard these studs coming up behind me. Gazza whipped off his top and gave it to me - he didn't want mine! - which was typical of the man." Gascoigne was to return south and win promotion; McCall plans to follow in his footsteps.

*The Real McCall (Mainstream Publishing, £9.99).

Scherer in display of sprint class

GOODWILL GAMES

HE BRAZILIAN swimmer Fernando Scherer equalled the fourth-fastest time in history for the men's 100 metres freestyle on Sunday as the world team trounced Germany 85-37 to win the Goodwill Games gold medal.

On the final day of the Games, Scherer managed to record 2.18sec, but he clearly believed that for a slight mistake he would have been able to achieve an even faster time. "I missed the wall by just a little," he said. "Just a quick touch and I would have been a little faster."

Scherer, who lives and trains in Florida, also clocked the fourth-fastest split time in the men's 4x100 metres relay with a time of 9.89.

His performance overshadowed the double Olympic gold medallist Alexander Popov, who clocked 22.27 helping Russia to a 63-59 win over the United States in the team competition.

"The races were really competitive and it was mentally tough to win," Popov said.

In the only other competitive event on Sunday, the top-seeded Brazilians Adriana Behar and Shelly Bede disposed of the fourth-ranked Australians Kerrin Bothard and Pauline Manser 12-9 in the women's beach volleyball final.

Brazil had also taken the men's title in Central Park on the previous day.

The Brazilian duo trailed 5-4 before finding their rhythm with a series of booming serves which left their Australian opponents scrambling in the sand on the makeshift surface at the Woolman ice skating rink.

"We train every day, one hour on serving," said Bede. "I don't know what other teams do, but we put a lot of stress on our serves."

Radcliffe frustrated by double rebuff

ATHLETICS

By ADAM SZRETER

AS ONE chapter closed - barring unforeseen circumstances, the next instalment of the British athletics saga was unfolding.

Roger Black retired following

sidered among the favourites for gold in the 10,000m at the European Championships in two weeks' time.

Black was beaten into third place by Richardson and Thomas but nevertheless enjoyed the send-off he was given by the Sheffield public and he reiterated that, in case of injury, he remains on standby for the individual 400m in Budapest despite being snubbed by the selectors in the first place. Given Solomon Waris's less than wholehearted commitment to the one-lap race, anything could still happen but it seems likely we have seen the last of Black on the track and can prepare to see a lot more of him on television.

Radcliffe's dominant performance over 3,000m, winning by about 50 metres from a field that included the world cross-country champion Sonia O'Sullivan, suggested that her recent stint of high-altitude training in the Pyrenees has paid off handsomely. She can look forward with great confidence to a meeting with the Portuguese world 10,000m champion, Fernanda Ribeiro, in Hungary. O'Sullivan has yet to decide whether to run the 5,000 or the 10,000.

"It's got to be a good psychological boost going to Budapest," Radcliffe said afterwards, "but this race was out of character for her [O'Sul-

livan] so I'm not reading anything into it. I've done a lot of work, putting in three weeks at 12 miles up there and now I'm really looking forward to racing."

The season began well for the 24-year-old Radcliffe, breaking Liz McColgan's 10,000m British record, and it has gone from strength to strength with victory at 5,000m and second place over 1500m in a European Cup double. That is something she would have liked to have had the chance of repeating at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia next month, but unless Kelly Holmes fails to return to health in time, Radcliffe will have to settle for just the 5,000.

"I'm disappointed the selectors didn't discuss it with me," she said. "I'm disappointed because they thought I couldn't cope with it. I could cope with it when Great Britain needed the points in the European Cup and I thought the whole object of me doing that was so that they consider me doubling up in Kuala Lumpur. It's a long way to go for one race." Her last outing before the Europeans is a 5,000m race in Stockholm tomorrow night.

As far as Sunday's meeting itself was concerned, there was plenty for the organisers, Fast Track, to feel happy about, although Jon Ridgeon, who takes off his press attache's hat

to become the master of ceremonies on such occasions, admitted they were hoping for slightly more than the 11,000 people who turned out on a beautiful afternoon, especially given that it was Black's last race.

"We were hoping for 12,000 at least, possibly as many as 15,000 so it shows there is still much work to do," said Ridgeon, himself a former world 110m hurdles silver medallist.

"Considering the weather was so good it was a bit on the sparse side but we can only do what we're doing, and it just shows you can't turn things around overnight. It may take us three years to get there."

time athlete, but had to compete against the likes of Christie and the top Americans to earn any money. Max Jones, Britain's chief coach, thinks that throwing youngsters at the deep end is counter-productive. "We saw it with Danny Joyce after he won the European junior title a few years ago," Jones said. "He came back and immediately put in a race with Linford. He was crushed by that."

When Jones watched the British junior team in action last week and looked ahead to their next challenges, he was thinking not of the European Championships but of the under-23 competitions next year. "We have got to nurture them. If we can't do that, we will be tough out there."

Jones now oversees a scheme funded by Lottery cash and immune from the financial travails which have affected the British Athletics Federation, that finds the right races for up-and-coming youngsters, helps to pay their physiotherapy costs and medical insurance, and even pays grants to the best among them. It will all help the young lions to roar.

Young British sprint hopes spared the fast track

By PETER MARTIN

SPRINTERS OFTEN talk about "tunnel vision" in their races when describing their absolute, single-minded concentration on running. Yet for many young British sprinters in the past decade, there was never any light at the end of the tunnel - indeed, after a brief flirtation with fame, halting ever so briefly to collect their European junior titles or World Junior Championship medals, they then ran off into the distance, never to be seen again.

The stunning emergence in the past week of Christian Malcolm as a double world junior sprint champion, however, offers the possibility of a far better progression through to success at senior level. The teenager from south Wales, who will receive a rapturous reception when he competes in tonight's Welsh Games at Cardiff, has arrived as a world force at a time when British sprinting is probably at its most competitive in more than a decade.

"The races were really competitive and it was mentally tough to win," Popov said.

In the only other competitive event on Sunday, the top-seeded Brazilians Adriana Behar and Shelly Bede disposed of the fourth-ranked Australians Kerrin Bothard and Pauline Manser 12-9 in the women's beach volleyball final.

Brazil had also taken the men's title in Central Park on the previous day.

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"We train every day, one hour on serving," said Bede. "I don't know what other teams do, but we put a lot of stress on our serves."

Malcolm, Chambers and Campbell

At a time when Britain can boast both the world 100m junior champion (Malcolm) and the world 100m junior record-holder in Dwain Chambers, it is equally significant that Christie has been involved in the development of both, as well as having helped coach the new AAA champion, Darren Campbell. Christie, as mentor, sometime financial sponsor and, above all, as inspiration, is

harvesting sprint talents the likes of which this country has never witnessed.

The sprint relay bronze medalists in Athens last year was a harbinger. When three of the Athens quartet raced together at the European Cup in St Petersburg in June, they were slicker and quicker. As well as Campbell, Malcolm and Chambers there is also Jason Gard-

ner, Julian Golding, Ian Mackie, Doug Walker, Marion Devonish and Doug Gardner. Such is the stock of British sprinting at present, multiple medals in all the sprints, not just the 400m, are expected at Budapest in two weeks' time.

Yet, for some, their present success has been hard won. When he was a teenager, Darren Campbell was picked out by Christie as the man to succeed him. Yet injuries, plus a lack of direction and cash saw Campbell drift into semi-professional football, where his European junior sprint double in 1991 counted for little when the centre-backs in the Dr Marten's League wanted to make their mark. Only now, at 24, and six years on from his greatest triumphs on the track, is Campbell beginning to realise his potential.

Campbell might have been lost to athletics simply because there was no support structure in place for him. "I had a bad injury, and I had no support, no back-up," Campbell says. "I wasn't racing, so I wasn't earning any money."

When Campbell graduated from the juniors, he tried to become a full-



Sprint talents (from left): Christian Malcolm, Dwain Chambers and Darren Campbell

July 1998

Clubs' Europe plan needs conference system

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

JUST WHEN you thought it was safe to return to the clubhouse bar after three long years of committee room argy-bargy, British rugby is on the verge of another political eruption. England's professional clubs are planning, with the full knowledge and support of the Rugby Football Union, an eleventh hour return to European competition that would lead to a radical restructuring of the Allied Dunbar Premier-

ship and, inevitably, a further falling out with the governing body of the game worldwide.

A little over four weeks before the scheduled start of the English campaign tens of thousands of long-suffering supporters are still entirely in the dark as to their clubs' fixture arrangements. Now we have an explanation for the delay. A new cross-border tournament involving as many as 40 teams and starting in October is firmly in the pipeline and, if agreement is reached, the Premiership will almost certainly be split into two American Foot-

ball-style "conferences" to create the necessary elbow room in a hopelessly top heavy programme.

All 14 Premiership One clubs would be involved in the new competition along with at least eight of the finest French teams, including Brive and Toulouse, and very probably more. Cardiff, who have effectively severed all links with the Welsh Rugby Union, are desperate to be involved while Swans and the top Italian sides, Benetton Treviso and Milan, are keen to join the party. Even the ultra-conserv-

ative Scots, impassioned recent critics of both the RFU and the English clubs, are showing an interest. Only the Irish are keeping their distance.

However, the situation is complicated by the determination of European Rugby Cup Ltd, the high-powered administrative body behind the three successful Heineken Cup tournaments, to cling on to power. The ERC directors, who boast three International Board executive members among their number, meet later this week to discuss the implications of the rival project and are certain to

call on all national unions to remain loyal to the original competition.

The English clubs voted last January to blank all future ERC-run tournaments and have now been joined in their boycott by almost all their big-name brethren in France. If ERC and, by extension, the IB choose to dig in their heels, the likes of Bath and Toulouse could soon find themselves accompanying Manchester United, Milan and other European Superleague enthusiasts in the courts.

"Much depends on what

happens over the next 72 hours," said Doug Ash, chief executive of English First Division Rugby, the Premiership clubs' umbrella organisation. "We've had some very encouraging discussions with potential sponsors and broadcasters and we're quietly confident of putting something in place for the coming season. If it happens, we'll obviously need to look at the Premiership fixture list. A seven-team conference system, followed by play-offs, is one option under consideration."

The RFU, now under the

great Australian wing now in semi-retirement, knows precisely where he is going: Singapore. The local union has persuaded the most prolific try-scorer in Test history to join Justin Sampson in coaching the national team in the forthcoming Asian Championship which will double as a qualifying tournament for the World Cup.

Campese, who intends to lead Australia's sevens team at the Commonwealth Games next month before taking up his new post, will join a rugby nation on a hot streak with two recent victories in the bank.

At least David Campese, the

Service trouble thwarts Henman

TENNIS

BY TONY KELSHAW

TM HENMAN'S attempt to win his first ATP final in America failed when he was beaten in straight sets by Andre Agassi at the Mercedes Cup in Los Angeles. The British No 2, seeded second in the event, lost 6-4, 6-4 to the former world No 1.

But, despite being beaten by the American, he remains 12th in the ATP rankings. The British No 2 went ahead of Slovakia's Karol Kucera, who slipped from 11 to 14, but at the same time was overtaken by Agassi, who climbed from 13 to 11.

Henman's problem in his first-ever meeting with Agassi was that he failed to establish his serve and volley game, but he was not too despondent in defeat. "To beat someone like Andre you've got to play at the top of your game, and I didn't do that," he said. "But I feel pleased with the way I'm playing, that's for sure. I lost today, but I think I'll take away a lot of positives."

Agassi, now ranked 13 in the world and fifth here, was winning his 11th straight match since his defeat in the second round at Wimbledon and it was his fourth tournament victory of the year.

Henman, competing for the first time since reaching the last four at Wimbledon, started nervously and had his serve broken in only the third game.

About to serve with the score at 30-all he was disturbed by a mobile phone in the crowd. Henman failed to regain his composure or that point and then handed the game over when crashing a simple-looking smash into the net.

"It's not the first time it has happened," Henman said of the irritating interruption. "It's not ideal, but it's going to happen wherever you play."

Agassi piled on the pressure with a series of punishing

drives from the baseline, while Henman's serve continued to give cause for concern. He had to survive a break point in the seventh game and was taken to deuce in the ninth before Agassi clinched the opening set with a love game.

Henman had served five aces in that first set, but also surrendered four double-faults and continued to struggle in the second set. He lost the fifth game on his serve, broke back immediately and then had his spirit crushed when he lost his serve again in the seventh.

In both of his lost games Henman put his opponent in the driving seat with double-faults, but he believes that is the price he pays for being positive.

"When you go for your second serve, you're going to make some double-faults," he said. Agassi comfortably held his serve twice more to clinch a second successive tournament victory and the 38th title of an illustrious career which includes three Grand Slam wins – at Wimbledon and the US and Australian Opens.

Elsewhere in the rankings announced yesterday Greg Rusedski, inactive since Wimbledon because of his severe ankle injury, stays at No 6 in the world.

Henman, whose current ambition is to break into the top 10 for the first time, has been seeded seventh in the Du Maurier Open in Toronto this week but Rusedski will again be an absentee from the circuit. However, he is likely to play in the Cincinnati and New Haven tournaments which follow Toronto because he needs matchplay badly if he is to prepare properly for the US Open in which he reached the final last year.

Sam Smith, Britain's leading woman player, fell one place from 58 to 59 in the latest WTA world rankings despite reaching the semi-finals of the Salt Lake City Challenger last week.



Tim Henman serves during his final with Andre Agassi in Westwood, Los Angeles

John Ferney/Allsport

ATHLETICS

FIRMINA COCHET, the former Olympic 1500m champion, has had his preparations for this month's European Championships in Budapest disrupted as she is suffering from flu. The Spaniard who had been planning to run the 800m as well as the 1500m in Budapest, returned home to Spanish national championships on Sunday because of the illness.

BASKETBALL

Derby Storm of the Budweiser League are close to signing John Treverett and Yorick Williams, the former Manchester Giants duo.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP:

SAVING NATIONS CUP (Budapest): 1 Hungary 2 Austria; 2 Germany 12.5; 3 Italy 11; 4 Belgium 28.5; 5 Italy 33.25; 6 Great Britain 55.

BOWLS

GRANVILLE BOWLS (Blackpool): Edward Jones & D Hopkinson (West Hartlepool) 1st; L Jones (Malvern) 21-16; A Hartley (Preston) & A Argent (West Hartlepool) 21-15; M Hogan (Lytham) & C Glover (West Hartlepool) 21-19; J Hartigan & C O'Connell (Hartlepool) 21-18; S Murray (Barrow) & R Wiggin (Barrow) 21-11; M Williams (Barrow) 21-16; D Kay (Salford) 21-11; M Jones (Malvern) 21-16; M Gillies (Chadderton) & M Scott (Stockport) 21-20; D Crabbtree (Hutton)

October's Oki Pro tournament has been withdrawn from this year's PGA European Tour schedule because of difficulties in finding a suitable venue.

SWEDISH OPEN (Goteborg): The Embassy World Professional Championship, the richest event in the year, will have record-breaking purse-money of £14,000,000 when it is staged by the British Darts Organisation for the 22nd consecutive year. The event runs and will again be staged at the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green, Surrey, with £42,000 going to the winner and £21,000 to the runner-up.

EQUESTRIANISM

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FOOTBALL

Frank and Ronald de Boer and Ajax failed to reach an agreement in their talks yesterday but resolved to renew their contracts. The two Dutch internationals want to leave Ajax but the club insist the players must abide by their contracts which run until 2004.

SHEFFIELD Wednesday have completed the signing of Wim Jonk, the Dutch international midfielder, for £2.5m on a three-year contract.

TREVOR SINCLAIR is hoping to be back in training with West Ham later this month after recovering from a serious knee injury. Sinclair followed a hospital scare. Sinclair, after reportedly having difficulty breathing and complaining of chest pains during a round of golf on Sunday and was declared overnight.

Gillingham have paid a club record £500,000 fee to sign Brentford's 27-year-old striker Bob Taylor. Taylor, scored 10 goals for Brentford last year.

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JOHN HARRISON (Salford): Class 1 CHS: 1 Russel Norr 98 (P. Harrison); 2 McSweeney (Scot) & H Abberley (Salford) 5-0; 3 Lardner (Eng) & T De Mulder (Netherlands) 5-1; 4 Independent (Eng) & P. Chircop (J. Kerr) 5-2; 5 D. Peacock (Eng) & J. T. Peacock (Eng) 5-1; 6 (T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-2; 7 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-3; 8 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-4; 9 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-5; 10 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-6; 11 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-7; 12 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-8; 13 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-9; 14 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-10; 15 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-11; 16 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-12; 17 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-13; 18 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-14; 19 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-15; 20 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-16; 21 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-17; 22 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-18; 23 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-19; 24 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-20; 25 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-21; 26 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-22; 27 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-23; 28 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-24; 29 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-25; 30 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-26; 31 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-27; 32 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-28; 33 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-29; 34 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-30; 35 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-31; 36 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-32; 37 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-33; 38 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-34; 39 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-35; 40 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-36; 41 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-37; 42 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-38; 43 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-39; 44 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-40; 45 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-41; 46 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-42; 47 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-43; 48 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-44; 49 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-45; 50 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-46; 51 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-47; 52 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-48; 53 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-49; 54 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-50; 55 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-51; 56 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-52; 57 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-53; 58 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-54; 59 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-55; 60 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-56; 61 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-57; 62 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-58; 63 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-59; 64 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-60; 65 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-61; 66 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-62; 67 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-63; 68 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-64; 69 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-65; 70 (K. T. Peacock (Eng) & D. Peacock (Eng)) 5-66;

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

M is for Monica

an A to Zippergate of the affair

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

Attorneys. Since this is the United States, these are the only people who have absolutely nothing to lose from Zippergate, whatever the outcome. Bill Clinton has a whole posse. Some, like Bruce Lindsey (see below), come with the job and are paid by the taxpayer; and their conversations, it was recently ruled, may not be confidential. Clinton's personal lawyer is the quiet, non-forthcoming David Kendall. Monica is now on her third team of lawyers: the first set recommended by a White House trustee, Vernon Jordan, were replaced early on by a friend of the Lewinsky family, William Ginsburg. Who Ginsburg appeared to life the limelight too much, setting the record for Sunday TV talk show appearances, he was replaced by Plato Cacheris and Jacob Stein, a couple of established Washington "insiders" who know how to work the system. Everyone who has ever been summoned to testify in the five-year Clinton-related investigation has/his/her own attorney, each one making work for many more.

Bill - William Jefferson Clinton, 42nd President of the United States, former state governor of Arkansas, and acknowledged womaniser, also known (to Monica) as The Creep. Bill would prefer to be solving the country's health and pension problems, visiting China or Russia, or raising millions of dollars for the Democratic Party (when he is not playing on the White House lawn with his dog, Buddy). But since his Zippergate broke on an unsuspecting world in January, he has spent his time fathoming out how to say as little as possible about a woman called Monica. He has endlessly denied having an affair with her (or with anyone else, for that matter, except once, long ago, with a girl called Gennifer - see below). Famous (last?) words: "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Ms Lewinsky." But is also for Bruce (Lindsey): lawyer, deputy White House counsel and long-time friend of Bill (FOB) from their days in Arkansas. If anyone in the White House knows the truth about Bill and Monica, it is Bruce.

Chelsea (Clinton) - as in "Poor Chelsea": 18-year-old daughter of Bill and Hillary. First appearance as awkward teenager with brace on her teeth, but of ugly duckling jokes during Bill's first presidential campaign. Now a ballet-loving swan about to start her second year studying medicine at the prestigious West Coast Stanford University, which is, possibly not coincidentally, about as far as you can get from Washington DC in the continental United States. The most charitable explanation for Bill's denials (if they are untrue): to shield Chelsea and Hillary (see below).

Dress - "that dress" in dark blue, bought by Monica from The Gap, and currently in FBI labs to be tested for semen stains (or, as the US media prefer, "physical evidence of a relationship"). Its existence was reported in January, and deliberately confused by White House with a souvenir T-shirt that Bill gave to Monica after his holiday in Martha's Vineyard. The dress that Monica apparently said she would "never wash" was surrendered to prosecutors as a key element of Monica's immunity deal.

D is also for Dolly (Kyla Browning) - Bill's school sweetheart and now a Texas lawyer, who wrote a novel based - she says - on their 30-year relationship, which she could not get published. She claims intimidation by Bill over many years and is suing for compensation.

Evidence - physical evidence of wrong-doing has been very thin on the ground over the five years of Starr's investigation. Hence the excitement over "that dress".

FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) - called in by Ken Starr in January to "wire up" Linda Tripp to tape her friend Monica. Called in again in July to test Dress for semen stains.

Gennifer (Flowers) - pretty, "sexy" blonde, former night-club singer and TV journalist from Arkansas, who nearly ruined Bill's chances of the presidency in 1992 when she alleged that they had had a 12-year affair. The only "other" woman Bill admits to having had sex with, just once. Jennifer's recollection is different.

Hillary (Rodham Clinton) - wife of Bill since 1975, mother of Chelsea. Rescued Bill from Gennifer problem, sitting beside him on CBS TV sofa and holding his hand as he confessed to having "caused pain in my marriage". Rescued him again in January, when she blamed his Monica problem on a "vast right-wing conspiracy". Always loyal at Bill's side when he's in political girl trouble, but will she stay after he leaves office?



Impeachment - the only way to get rid of a president. A trial by the US Congress that could remove Bill from office if he were found guilty of a "high crime or misdemeanour". There is much legal discussion about whether simple perjury would qualify.

J is also for Intern: un- or underpaid young person on work experience programme; White House has hundreds of them every year, including, in 1995, Monica. Now discouraged career path for "nice" girls and target of innumerable ogling, nudge jokes. Among duties of White House intern? "Serving Air Force One".

K is also for Internet: home of the Drudge Report, whose reporter, Matt Drudge, has brought many of the scoops in this story. Also where hundreds of websites relate Monica and Bill jokes in the worst possibly taste, illustrated by equally unsavory animations.

L Jones (Paula) - Arkansas state employee who brought sexual harassment suit against Bill in 1994, alleging unwanted sexual advantages in a Little Rock hotel room in 1991. Smearred by White House as "trailer park trash", despite her respectable upbringing - possibly because of her big hair. Her case - funded by a right-wing think-tank - thrown out for lack of evidence. April 1998: Jones is now appealing (but had \$20,000 "no sue" first).

Monica (Paula) - independent prosecutor appointed August 1993 to investigate charges of fraud and cover-up in the Clintons' Whitewater land deal in Arkansas. Investigations expanded by the month, to include the sacking of White House travel office staff, the transfer to White House of FBI personal files to the White House, and - in January, 1998 - Monica. Denounced by friends of Bill as politically motivated; defended by others as a meticulous lawyer, just doing his job. Pillar of establishment most often seen on TV wheeling his casket back from the kerb in the early morning.

Neusee - got cold feet about scandal uncovered by their star investigative reporter, Michael Isikoff, in January, and pulled it from magazine, only to be scooped by Matt Drudge, maverick Internet reporter and gossip-monger (who has made the running on this story) and then the Washington Post, which printed Monica story first on 21 January. Newsweek has been running to catch up ever since.

Newsweek

Gaining currency

Sir: Christopher Johnson (Brown wants stability; he has given us stop-go, 30 July) has explained our way into the EMU, or rather to another probationary period in the ERM, more clearly than most Euro-enthusiasts. We must brisly wind our interest rate down towards 4 per cent, while containing inflation by brisly increasing taxes on consumers, the people who "spend money in supermarkets".

These are the people who already pay more heavily than they know, every week, for EU disasters such as the common agricultural and fisheries policies, for our endless EU trade deficit, and for its hostility to developing countries and to free trade outside its boundaries. Contempt for the interests and awareness of the ordinary electorate seems to be a hallmark of Euro-enthusiasts everywhere. It is the essence of the EU's "democratic deficit".

Mr Johnson's argument assumes that the European Central Bank and the plotting squabbling cabal of EMU political leaders, will display a level of fiscal prudence, probity and expertise, not to mention political honesty, not available among our own politicians. The Bank has just been created. It is untried, unstaffed, and already a political football, due to the diverging self-interests of the French and German blocs. The leaders of the main EMU countries used an extraordinary variety of one-off fiscal fiddles to try to meet their own agreed fiscal criteria for EMU membership. Having failed, they have agreed to ignore the criteria. The Maastricht Treaty meant nothing; the Stability Pact will mean nothing. What if it is unilaterally breached by, say, France? Civil war? To placate their suffering electorates, these same leaders have promised various kinds of jam tomorrow, to be paid for by somebody else - mainly the Germans, who are understandably getting tired of this. We should commit our economic and political future to such people, and to voters from mighty Luxembourg?

The EMU is the hastily botched vehicle of a fragile Franco-German entente resting on basically divergent political agendas. It is supported by a bunch of other, mostly minor states, which expect to prosper further at the expense of France, Germany and, preferably, us. We don't need it, our membership is not inevitable, it is inefficient, inward-looking and undemocratic. It is also the natural progression of the EU, which we should leave now.

M J KNIGHT
Slough

SIR: A new European Commission poll showing that support for the single currency is running neck and neck with opposition confirms the sharp move in public opinion that many have detected since the General election.

The Government's positive stance towards EMU, coupled with the fact that the Euro is now virtually a reality, has clearly made an impact. People are increasingly focusing on a choice between a single currency with lower interest rates, lower inflation, more jobs and a means to tackle currency speculation - and life outside the single currency, with higher interest rates, an over-valued pound and currency instability.

How ironic that this new poll is published just after Francis Maude, the new Shadow Chancellor, declared that he could not foresee any circumstances in which a Conservative government would ever join the single currency.

Never has it been clearer that the Tories are putting outdated dogma ahead of the country's economic interests.

BILL RAMMELL MP
House of Commons
London

The noble art

SIR: In his fascinating contribution about bare-knuckle boxing ("Last king of the knuckle brigade", 1 August) Clive Gammon condemns

it thus: "a bare-knuckle fight of the barbaric kind that has been illegal since the Offences Against the Person Act of 1861". But the irony is that illegal bare-knuckle boxing is much safer than legal sport with gloves.

An average heavy-weight boxer's gloved fist delivers a blow which is equivalent to half a ton travelling at 20 mph. And it is known that every heavy blow causes localised damage to the surface of the brain as it moves to and fro inside the skull. There is only one way to make boxing safer while retaining its appeal and that is to remove the gloves and return to bare-knuckle boxing. The power of the fighters' blows will automatically be reduced to avoid breaking the bones of their hands.

D R H C GRANT
London NW3

Drug-free sports

SIR: I am forced to wonder if Philip Hensher ("Only the French could make a farce of the Tour de France", 31 July) really realises what he is saying?

If doping should be accepted in cycling, presumably it should be acceptable in all other sports; where does he draw the line?

I believed that the essence of competitive sport was the "unaided" relative skill of individuals or teams. After all, we are not constantly exhorted to recognise the contribution to health and character-building which sport is supposed to bring to individuals and the nation (and never to question the enormous vested interests of so many of the exhortors, be they manufacturers, media promoters, or physical educators)?

But Hensher does not have the courage of his convictions, or would he not have ended by calling for abandonment of all restrictions on extraneous aids to peak performance in cycling?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Continuing our series on car boot sales, a browser checks out retro LPs at a sale in Flixton, near Bungay, Suffolk

Brian Harris

And if cycling, why not all other sports? Look here, he is effectively saying, sport is great entertainment and we shouldn't care how the entertainment is achieved.

By all means, let us not be further subjected to the financial demands of the sports industry for funding, distortion of the school timetable, and sanctimonious exhortation by all those with vested interests.

And so, what next in the re-evaluation of values? Freedom to add sand to sugar chalk to flour? Ever heard of honesty?

BRIAN ALLT
Sudbury, Suffolk

Small shops' battle

SIR: So we hear that the Office of Fair Trading is going to investigate the profits of the big four supermarkets, and small shopkeepers (like me) are said to

be rejoicing. Well, sorry to spoil the party, but this one isn't.

What is important is the difference between the effective prices paid by small shopkeepers to suppliers and the effective prices paid by supermarkets for the same goods (after all discounts, inducements, rebates, payments for advantageous shelf space that the supermarkets extract from suppliers, etc).

The difference is so enormous as to be anti-competitive, so little shops like ours are labelled as expensive when we're not.

The OFT is supposed to keep an eye on anti-competitive practices. The problem is that small businesses like ours have no bargaining power with suppliers. We are so small that we are in a similar position to the consumer; in fact, in a worse position, because the Government recognised years ago that consumers need protection since they lack

bargaining power; thus lending them some statutory support.

I do not believe that this government, any more than any other government, is prepared to grasp this nettle.

I await with a sinking feeling the exoneration of the big four supermarket companies.

TOM INNES
Monmouth

SIR: Overheard in Covent Garden

Fruit Market:

Question: What is the difference between a Sainsbury's buyer and a terrorist?

Answer: You can negotiate with a terrorist.

WILLIAM F LONG
Loughton, Essex

Racist healthcare

SIR: It is well known that people who experience mental health services and many people from

black and ethnic minority communities have grave reservations about the clinical practice of psychiatry.

The implementation of compulsory powers under present circumstances (ie the 1983 Mental Health Act) is riddled with racism and cultural insensitivity resulting in inequality and injustice - a fact evident from reports of the Mental Health Act Commission and I believe well known to ministers.

Basically, the system of (Western) psychiatry used in the mental health services is both insensitive to the cultural diversity of our society and fails to

counteract problems arising from institutional racism. And there is as yet no indication that the government has either the political will or the strategy to remedy these difficulties.

Frank Dobson's letter to Dr Graham Thorncroft does not indicate that he is looking to the committee headed by the latter for anything like a radical examination of psychiatric practice and of course he would not have given the chairmanship of the committee to a psychiatrist from the mainstream of institutional psychiatry if he had!

My fear is that unless the problems inherent in current psychiatric practice are tackled first, the proposed changes (round-the-clock crisis teams, extra hostels etc) would have little effect - and in some cases may make matters much worse both for people diagnosed as "mentally ill" and the general public. And worrying to me as a psychiatrist that the already tarnished reputation of psychiatry as a racist and insensitive discipline that is merely a front for social control would be worsened.

JANE COOPER
Northampton

SIR: "Care in the community was based on lofty and widely held ideals" (Letters, 3 August) should continue to reflect the loyalty of most British people to our monarchy, which has played an integral part in our country's proud history. It was because James VI of Scotland (from whom our present Prince of

Wales descends 17 times) inherited the English throne as James I that Great Britain came into existence; and with modern developments of devolution the unifying power of our sovereign will be increasingly needed.

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PANDORA

SHIPYARD WORKER, left-wing militant, media mogul and now Minister for Business and Industry at the Scottish Office, Gordon Macdonald has been called in to shore up Labour's business-friendly activities. The announcement comes just a day after Pandora pointed out the fund-raising potential at the DTI of Peter Mandelson and Brian Wilson (who Macdonald is replacing at the Scottish Office).

Macdonald's appointment is likely to be followed by at least two more posts created to establish links with business; what is not yet clear is whether they will be government or Labour Party focused. Meanwhile, Macdonald is rumoured to be in line for a peerage. If so expect to see Ian Robertson, chief executive of Scottish Power; Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays Bank; and John Rose, chief executive of Rolls Royce (and good friend of Jonathan Powell, Blair's Chief of Staff) reap similar reward for their "friendliness to Labour".

DONALD TRUMP is making plans to hold the 1999 Miss Universe competition in the city of Eilat, in Israel. A letter written by Eilat's mayor, Gahli Kadosh, shows that the port town has offered \$3m plus expenses to hold the prestigious event, outpacing all other bids according to the New York Post. Trump's aides claim that the project has Benjamin Netanyahu's support, and that discussions are underway to invite King Hussein of Jordan. The event, however, would surely not be complete without Eurovision transvestite superstar, Dana International. David Schneeweiss, Press Secretary of the Israeli Embassy in London agreed: "Clearly Dana is a draw card, and she would add that extra bit of glamour to the occasion." Draw card? Shouldn't that be drag queen?

HAS CRITICISM from the "Cool Britannia" inside circle stung Tony Blair into finding a new group of friends? The Prime Minister's teddy bear Lynton (pictured), made for him by an admiring Ealing resident, is to sit alongside those of famous "luggies" Richard Briers, Derek Nimmo and Bonnie Langford in the Teddy Bear Museum in Stratford-upon-Avon. Pandora wonders whether this is the opening overture in an exciting new media campaign - "Forgotten Britannia". The question is where this leaves Lord Archer, whose teddy bear is to sit alongside the Prime Minister? Looking at the London mayoral hopeful's current chances, he may be

grateful for being even that close to the centre of power.

NOT EVERYONE in Harry Redknapp's family would necessarily agree with the colourful football manager's view that footballers' wives should "concentrate on looking after the kids and the house". Certainly, new daughter-in-law, the singer Louise would probably beg to differ from the West Ham manager's outspoken position. Surely she will let Jamie Redknapp wear the shorts while she wears the trousers? Some indication of what her views might be came from Janet Dunleavy, press officer at Louise's record company EMI: "She wouldn't want what she said to be misinterpreted and start a family row."

MEDIA COMMENTATORS may well be sceptical about Liberal Democrat MPs getting into government (see yesterday's Comment column by Steve Richards), but at least one is keeping his hopes up. Don Foster, the Lib Dem's education spokesman, told colleagues at an end-of-term party last week that: "We made sure Number 10 knows my pager number. My old mate Stephen Byers has just been promoted. You never know the call might come."

DOES PETER Mandelson's backing for a £2.3m boulder park in Hartlepool indicate a new departure for Labour Party bickering? The Summerhill project has delighted climbing traditionalists because it shuns some features that would otherwise make the climbs too easy. It is nice to see Mandy endorsing something that lets people make their own choice about their own safety, somewhat different to the Government's treatment of eating beef or smoking. The ever-helpful Benjamin Wegg-Prosser, Mandy's aide, was reluctant to make the connection between the more liberal approach to climbing versus the nannyish approach. He could only prattle through gritted teeth, the following advice: "If you have a concern about safety you can phone Hartlepool Borough Council." Where does Pandora phone for an emergency case of sense-of-humour failure?

Of course anything can happen on the wild fringes of medicine and psychiatry and that is where I place the "healing ministry" for homosexuals that the Bishop of San Joaquin, John Davies, runs at St James's Cathedral in Fresno, California. Mr Davies also makes the unverifiable claim that the American Church has lost a million worshippers because of its pro-homosexual agenda.

It is a bit easier for bishops to assert that homosexuality is a sin because in one or two places the Bible can be interpreted as giving support for this opinion - as it has also been used in the past to justify hatred of Jews, to condone slavery and to encourage a sort of misogyny. However the Ten Commandments are silent

Careless talk costs harmless lives



TERENCE BLACKER

Crush videos depict small animals being stamped on by scantly dressed women wearing stilettos

"bumble bee" or "stag beetle" to the pornographer behind the counter. The BBC are not as yet planning a series of X-Rated Animal Hospital, in which Uncle Rolf Harris will team up with the Vice Squad to rescue small creatures at risk from the sex industry.

But it would be foolish not to admit that news of the Bug Man of Telford risks inflaming our already unnatural

obsession with animals. At this time of the year, dog owners taking holidays abroad will be suffering the agonies of putting their pets in kennels, an event which is more emotionally traumatic for the English than sending a child to boarding school. Cat-lovers find themselves caught up in the annual slaughter of young birds who have just flown the nest straight into the slavering jaws of vicious domestic raptors.

Even those psychologists who have argued that pet ownership provides therapeutic relief are beginning to see that it can go too far. It once seemed sensible for those with controlling, fascistic tendencies to exercise them on four-legged victims; now, as a recent *Vanessa* programme revealed, many people actually prefer their dog to their spouse. The need of lonely people to find something soft and undiscriminating to caress argued the case for cats; now, thanks to a new survey by the Mammal Society, we are discovering that they present a serious problem for wildlife.

In a survey from April to August last year, researchers studied the kill record of 964 cats. Over 14,000 prey

items were taken during the period, an average kill rate of 16.7 animals per cat. Extended over the year, the report suggests, our 7.5 million domestic cats could be responsible for the deaths of 300 million animals and birds. These would include an estimated 230,000 bats, four million frogs, 170,000 newts. The decline in such species as barn owls and grass snakes, stoats and weasels, while primarily the result of habitat loss and pollution, has also been exacerbated by our love affair with the cat.

Oddly, owners who put a bell around their cat's neck are doing more harm than good - the kill rate of belled cats in the survey was 19 compared to 15 for those without bells. It may well be time for our caring, authoritarian Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to introduce a Crime and Disorder (Feline) Bill, making owners responsible for the carnage caused by their pets, banning the putting out of cats at night - a particularly harmful practice - and placing a quota on cats allowed in each household.

Against this background, there will be those who argue that the arrival of crush videos could be a

healthy way for humans to express their natural cruelty. They will point out that Spaniards are famously well-adjusted, yet have a weakness for dropping donkeys from the top of tower-blocks. They will say that the French, who solve the problem of pets at holiday-time by leaving theirs by the side of the autoroute as they head south, are incomparably less neurotic than we are.

Using arguments deployed by bunting enthusiasts, the crush hobby may discover that their sport actually helps endangered species to survive, or even that being trodden underfoot is an essential part of a small animal's existence, a more natural part of its life cycle than being poisoned by insecticides.

They will not find support in this column. The pygmy shrew, the stag beetle, the common toad and many others were already in desperate trouble thanks to the combined efforts of subsidy-crazed farmers and dewy-eyed cat-lovers. Now they are to be further impaled by the careless talk of Paul Theroux and the warped desires of perverts from Telford. It all seems desperately unfair.

The bishops finally see reason over homosexuality



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

A careful statement on homosexuality was designed to cloak angry divisions of opinion

SINCE I wrote despairingly last week about the homophobic attitudes displayed by some of the bishops of the worldwide Anglican Communion, matters have improved a little. At their once-a-decade Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, a careful statement on homosexuality was issued over the weekend. The report was designed to cloak angry divisions of opinion. On Friday, for instance, there was a further public shouting match following the rows of the previous week: this time the altercation was between homosexual clergy and a campaign group waving anti-gay bannisters.

On arriving at Canterbury some African bishops had described homosexuality as a white man's disease while others designated it as a sin. How, I wondered, would these homophobic views be described in an official document? It is, after all, difficult to sustain the notion that homosexuality is a disease seeing that it never occurs to mainstream medical practitioners to describe it as such, nor is any research into a "cure" being conducted. Nor since the early 1970s has homosexuality been considered a mental illness.

Of course anything can happen on the wild fringes of medicine and psychiatry and that is where I place the "healing ministry" for homosexuals that the Bishop of San Joaquin, John Davies, runs at St James's Cathedral in Fresno, California. Mr Davies also makes the unverifiable claim that the American Church has lost a million worshippers because of its pro-homosexual agenda.

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turbance of the normal state of the body or mind, it also carries overtones of reprehensible behaviour.

A second group of bishops believes that "relationships between people of the same gender should not include genital expression" that this is the clear teaching of the Bible and of the Church universal, and that such activity if unrepeated of is a barrier to the Kingdom of God". As always, statements that represent compromises between a variety of opinions raise more questions than they answer.

On a strict reading, this is a recommendation for homosexual celibacy, albeit using the ancient concept in a negative way. The respectable argument for celibacy, whether of heterosexuals or homosexuals, is that a priest should consider his church or his flock as his family and that there can be no rival for its spiritual and emotional demands. But that is not how the notion is being used here.

However, perhaps something less severe is intended, such as people of the same sex living together in loving but chaste relationships.

To paraphrase, then, the first group of bishops says of homosexuality: "It's an abomination; while the second group argues, a little less intolerantly, it cannot be helped, but you shouldn't, so to speak, 'give in' to it. What is the position of the third group identified in the report?" Hardly enlightening. It comprises those who believe that "committed homosexual relationships fall short of the biblical norm, but are to be preferred to relationships that are anonymous and transient". This is truly to damn with faint praise. Nobody can approve of relationships that are anonymous and transient, whatever the sexuality of the parties. Moreover the words "anonymous" and "transient" are hiding something, I guess that what the bishops supporting



Bishops take a break at Lambeth

Paul Vicente

sexuals, that is to "bless" such unions. The saving grace of the document, however, is not the analysis but a charitable statement that clears away the stain of homophobia: "there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation... we wish to assure them that they are loved by God, and that all baptised, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ".

I draw two conclusions from this. First, the Anglican Communion acknowledges that it has unwittingly ordained many homosexual priests to the ministry during its long history without God buring thunderbolts at the offending cathedrals. And second it follows that if homosexuals, baptised, believing and faithful, are "full members of the Body of Christ", that is of the Anglican Communion, then in due course, their sexual orientation will no longer serve to condemn them to second-class membership. I now expect to see this matter satisfactorily resolved by the time of the next Lambeth Conference - in 2008.

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No such thing as a Third Way

PODIUM

FRANCIS MAUDE
*From a speech delivered
by the shadow
Chancellor to the
Social Market
Foundation in London*

Third Way is everything. For the second, it is nothing.

The truth is that the Third Way is a principle-free zone - a vacuum. And we know that nature abhors a vacuum. Something will always rush to fill it. In this case, the vacuum has been filled by a policy of tax and spend.

If there is one clear conclusion from the events of the last few weeks - from the Economic and Fiscal Strategy Report, through the Comprehensive Spending Review, to Mr Blair's reshuffle, it is that the Third Way has collapsed in upon its own vacuity.

So, after a period in which the normal rules of politics seemed to be suspended, it turns out that not so much has changed after all. The idea that there is some mystically significant Third Way, a "have your cake and eat it" option, turns out to be null, as we always said it was. The Third Way has collapsed. Mr Blair is an ordinary mortal after all. He has not discovered the secret of perpetual motion.

Politics and government are, as we have always said, about taking difficult decisions about real things - yes, actually

making hard choices; not just talking about them. You cannot get away with talking about the state doing less, when the choices you make involve the state doing more.

Welfare reform is not just a radical-sounding slogan; it is a serious policy commitment requiring a real resolve and determination. People will begin to see the gap between the rhetoric and the reality. They will see that there are two broad directions in which a country can go, it can opt for the state gradually over time to do less, and for people to do more, for themselves, for each other and for their communities.

This is the path Britain has followed for most of the past two decades. It is the path most advanced countries are now pursuing. It is the path that builds economic strength, personal independence and responsibility - a stronger society and leads to lower taxes.

This is what Conservatives stand for. And as the politicians leave Westminster, we know one thing for sure. The great battle of political ideas is just beginning.

JP Vines 15/8

Sterling's bumpy ride



ALISON COTTRELL

Should businesses be bracing themselves for the sterling roller coaster to head down again?

WITH STERLING falling again on the markets, ahead of Wednesday and Thursday's meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee, and the CBI and the unions demanding with one voice that it should be lowered as soon as possible if British exports are to remain competitive, the nation's currency is once again at the centre of economic debate.

As sterling's only consistent feature has been its inconsistency, should businesses now be bracing themselves for the sterling roller coaster to head down again? Not, it is clear, if the Bank of England has anything to do with it. A lower pound was cited by the Monetary Policy Committee as one of the reasons behind its June interest rate rise. Just how strong, however, is the pound? And how low might it - or might the Bank of England prefer it not to - go? The answer, as always, depends on how you ask the question.

Since August 1996, when sterling found its present set of wings, the pound has risen 25 per cent against the DM but only 5 per cent against the American dollar. Sterling has traditionally clung closer to the dollar's coat-tails than the DM's, though this is arguably now as much a symptom as a justification of Britain's "semi-detached" European status. For investors, sterling, like the dollar and the Swiss franc, offers an alternative to the euro-bloc. The "alternatives" will tend to move together, and against the euro, simply because they are precisely that, alternatives.

When concerns about EMU and Asia pushed up the dollar this year and last year, they naturally did the same to sterling; and a succession of interest rate increases from the newly independent Bank of England ensured that the pound never trailed too far behind its transatlantic big brother.

Stability against the dollar is, however, of limited comfort to UK exporters, over half of whose sales go to the EU, and who then compete with Europeans for the 13 per cent sold to North America. The trade-weighted exchange rate is 22 per cent higher than two years ago; a considerable shift, even for an economy proud of its "flexibility". Certainly, a rising currency does not



Sweeping up in what was once Britain's biggest export industry: Rover is now laying off workers again due to the high cost of sterling

necessarily imply a loss of competitiveness. A postwar upwardly mobile DM did not - at least, not until the 1990s! - consistently knock German industry, since low unit cost inflation held the real exchange rate relatively stable.

Sadly for all concerned, the strong pound circa 1998 has been a function not of relatively low but of relatively high inflation. Adjust for inflation, and that 22 per cent rise in the nominal pound since mid-1996 turns into a 32 per cent rise in the real exchange rate. UK plc may be flexible, but it is not Houdini; and while the restructuring prompted by a sharp sustained real appreciation produces a leaner corporate base by definition (since the flabbier companies go to the wall), the accompanying job losses and the further reduction in investment and R&D render it a less than ideal fitness programme.

Is sterling overvalued, however? Yes, if you are selling Rovers; no, on the OECD's measure of Purchasing Power Parity (which equates prices of traded goods); perhaps, on estimates of Fundamental Equilibrium Exchange Rates (which attempt also to incorporate capital flows); yes, on the Economist magazine's "Big Mac" index (based on the

prices of that most standardised of consumer products).

Let us just say that the currency looks a little top-heavy. To the Rover exporter, the pound is undoubtedly and perhaps irrationally overvalued. To the currency "exporter", however, sterling's strength has been the all too rational product of UK interest rates and an expected eventual depreciation. Why? Because there are few free lunches in the financial markets. What is gained on the swings is generally lost on the roundabouts. UK interest rates are high relative to German, but what investors gain on these "swings", they expect on balance to lose on the currency "roundabout".

Forecasts for the pound, a couple of years out, cluster in a DM2.60-70 range (or the euro equivalent). If this fall is to offset the intervening interest rate return, the decline needs to start from somewhere in the DM2.90s; which is where sterling has obviously been sitting.

Interest rate expectations are, however, fickle things, and in the context of a reviving European economy and a slowing UK one, investors have roving eyes. Were the UK-German interest rate gap looking likely to close more quickly

than previously thought, sterling would slip.

At an extreme, there is no greater sell signal for a currency than rumblings of recession; and while the UK is not yet there, ever softer economic data have begun to prompt a rethink and, already, a slightly weaker Pound. The Bank of England's Inflation Report on August 12th will be a crucial determinant of where those thoughts go next.

Increasingly, however, the "strength" or "weakness" of the pound will have less to do with the UK itself, than with its neighbours. Set against EMU-land, Great Britain is as large as is the Netherlands relative to Germany. This is not very Great. Sterling's exchange rate will be a function of shifts in the euro and dollar tectonic plates; a passive and perhaps even more volatile outlook. No novelty in the latter, of course, for UK exporters; but in the more competitive post-EMU environment, a possibly greater disadvantage.

EMU-based companies, like their US counterparts, will be somewhat insulated against currency shifts by a large "domestic" base. The exchange rate will still matter to Germany et al; but it will not matter as much. It will, however, still matter enormously to the very open UK. The transformation into "Little Britain" will be economically as well as psychologically uncomfortable.

Fortunately for UK businesses, there is a near-term silver lining. After a tricky pregnancy, the euro looks set to be a bouncing baby. The expected UK-German interest rate differential is, indeed, likely to narrow, initially, as UK interest rate forecasts are adjusted, but subsequently and more importantly as European rate expectations rise on the back of EMU-land's robust economic growth.

Note that we are talking here about expectations. Actual interest rates will be much more sluggish; and the Bank of England, which cited sterling weakness as a rationale for June's rate rise, would be likely to respond to an already softening pound by pushing back still further its first interest rate cut. Continental European interest rates will move up before UK rates move down.

If sterling is heading lower, where might it be heading to? Those "fair value" estimates go as low as DM2.30; but any medium term scenario must allow for possible EMU entry, and EMU begins in Dublin. The Irish punt will join EMU at DM2.48. It is difficult to imagine Dublin welcoming in sterling at an ultra-competitive DM2.30. Realpolitik supports the DM2.60-70 consensus (with a cautious Bank of England probably preferring the upper end of that range); though the route to that destination is unlikely to be straightforward. The characteristic approach would be for sterling to head down to and straight through that level, before bobbing back upwards.

If a volatile pound can be expensive and inconvenient for UK industry, it presents a more fundamental dilemma for a UK government keeping its options open on EMU. Stability against the euro is probably impossible without a commitment to EMU; but the key criterion for EMU membership is two years of stability.

EMU entry can be neither a spontaneous nor a unilateral decision. Well before the next elections, if it is genuinely to keep those options open, the Government will need to take exchange rates seriously. Two years' stability is an ambitious objective for a currency which counts itself lucky to sit still for two weeks.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DENNIS THE MENACE



One of the Beano's most popular figures responds to John Walsh's criticisms of the comic

HELLO READERS! Dad has let me out specially because he saw that I haven't been so red-like-a-tomato and mad since Walter tried to make me an honorary softy!!! Your comic has a character called John Walsh who tries to be a manace but who looks to me very like softy Walter. There he goes prancing around in his scented column, scattering blooms. A prime target for Menacing! Just like Walter, he has no idea about what is going on in Beantown so, as I fine-tune the targeting mechanism of my peashooter, let me have a word with you about what he said.

Softy Walsh says that we are more cautious than we used to be. He obviously hasn't met Gnasher lately who is ready to show him precisely how un-cautious he can be. Or the Bash Street Kids who are still un-cautiously giving teacher the run-around. Softy Walsh also ought to get his facts right: it's not 'Erbert but Wilfred who still wears his jumper pulled up just under his nose. Grrrrrr!

And - whoosh! - Billy Whizz may be the quickest kid in Beantown - or anywhere - but he's not new; he's been running around here since 1964. So it must be a long time indeed since Walsh looked.

Then there's the romance, which, oddly for a softy, he doesn't like. He is right there. Romance is yukky. (Beano Reader's voice) It may not be what you like, Dennis, but we loyal readers enjoy Crazy for Daisy. So there.) Beantown is more commercial than it used to be, but then so is everything, even menacing. (Rodger the Dodger helps us with the money-making schemes).

I'm off to our 60th anniversary pie-eating party at the Town Hall. Softy Walsh had better be there. But readers, you can join me at our super web-site www.beano.co.uk. See you.

The software wars of the future

TUESDAY BOOK

THE NEXT WORLD WAR
BY JAMES ADAMS, HUTCHINSON, £18.99

THIS IS one of those books about the future that would frighten the daylights out of you - if you believed it. The trouble is that so much of it reads like science fiction. Indeed, two of the chapters are fiction: the author's device for presenting his thesis in a graphic and dramatic manner.

James Adams, a former defence correspondent on *The Sunday Times* and its Washington correspondent for many years, has developed a reputation as an authority on intelligence and covert warfare. He lectures to the American National Defence University and the Central Intelligence Agency. On this military-intelligence circuit, he sensed the angst of the American military-industrial complex about the vacuum left by the end of the Cold War. They felt a "My God, what do we do now?" feeling that the Gulf War only briefly allayed. Talking to the brighter lights in Wash-

ington and Moscow, he developed a vision of the future that is the centre-piece of this book.

The United States is the most powerful nation in history. For the Gulf War, it put together a combination of conventionally-armed manpower and new-tech weapons that proved murderously successful. Yet when the US got involved in two-bit countries such as Somalia and Haiti and a few American servicemen were killed, the public outcry was enormous. The lesson was obvious: the US only wants to fight wars in which no one gets hurt. Like

The answer is IW and NLW (Information Warfare, and Nonlethal Weapons). You had better get used to acronyms - this book has a glossary with more than a hundred listed - and, indeed, to a new language. The next world war will be fought in "cyber-space" by "cyberknights" armed with viruses, bugs, worms and logicbombs - familiar old words used to describe nasty new things.

The theory of IW is that since computers run so many things these days, - communications, banking, production processes, oil supplies, electricity grids, transportation systems, air traffic control, government records and defence systems, to name only some - then an assault on the computers of an enemy of the US could bring that foe to its knees in days, if not hours.

But, of course, the reverse is also true.

A determined cyber-terrorist armed with his trusty laptop could change baby-food formulas at the factory to make them poisonous.

He could disrupt banks and stock exchanges, make aircraft collide, black out cities, make telephone systems crash and paralyse a nation's defence.

More than 95 per cent of the US defence and intelligence community's voice and data traffic uses the American public telephone system.

Barry Collins of the Institute for Security and Intelligence, says such a terrorist would be able to "make certain



Deadly hardware as in 'Terminator 2' gives way to Nonlethal Weapons

that the population of a nation will not be able to eat, to drink, to move, or to live. In addition, the people charged with the protection of their nation will not have warning, and will not be able to shut down the terrorist, since that cyberterrorist is most likely on the other side of the world."

At this stage, with the country brought low by computer failure, the troops move in with their NLWs and hit you with their "slickums" or "stickums". Slickums are superglue-like substances that can coat roads, runways, ramps, railroad tracks, stairs and pavements with hard clear coatings that allow no grip for wheels, tracks or feet. We would literally slip and slide to disaster.

Stickums are polymer adhesives that trap vehicles and people like flies on flypaper. Alternatively, the

enemy will get us with pepper sprays, aqueous foam, stingers, laser dazzlers, strobe lights, liquid stun guns, or acoustic canons.

If you go along with James Adams's thesis that IW is the new arms race, then you will find this book fascinating. As the publisher's blurb puts it, "This is not the future. It is here. It is now and how it will be used will decide the future of the world." Maybe. If you are sceptical, as I am, and if you believe that this is just another way for the arms manufacturers to tighten more money out of Congress, as they did in the 1980s with the science fiction of the Strategic Defence Initiative programme, then read it as a new episode of *Star Trek* - called, perhaps, "Set Phasers to Stun".

PHILIP KNIGHTLEY

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TUESDAY POEM

'ONE DAY, FEELING HUNGRY'

BY GWYNETH LEWIS

One day, feeling hungry, I swallowed the moon.
It stuck, like a wafer, to the top of my mouth,
dry as an aspirin. It slowly went down,
showing the gills of my vocal cords,
the folded wings in my abdomen,
the horrible twitch of my insect blood.

Lit from inside, I stood alone
(dark to myself) but could see from afar
the brightness of others who had swallowed stars.

Our poems this week come from volumes competing for this year's Forward Prizes, which will be announced on 7 October. Gwyneth Lewis's book 'Zero Gravity' (Bloodaxe, £6.95) is shortlisted for the Best Collection award.

Eva Bartok

ALTHOUGH PUBLICISED in the Fifties as Britain's answer to Sophia Loren, the actress Eva Bartok became better known for her tempestuous private life than for her appearances in a string of generally mediocre films. By the time she was 30, she had been married and divorced four times, one of her husbands being actor Curt Jurgens, while her lovers included the Marquess of Milford Haven and Frank Sinatra. Her most notable films are two cult movies, the pastiche swashbuckler *The Crimson Pirate*, in which she starred opposite Burt Lancaster; and Mario Bava's horror film *Blood and Black Lace*.

Born Eva Martha Szoke in Keokemet, Hungary, in 1926, she married her first husband, Giza Kovas, a Nazi, while only 15 years old and after imprisonment in a concentration camp. The marriage was later annulled on the grounds of coercion of a minor.

A strikingly beautiful blonde, she found work on the Budapest stage after the Second World War, and made her film debut in a Hungarian film, *Mezei Profeta* (released in the United States as *Prophet of the Field*), in 1947. When she wrote to an old friend, the film producer Alexander Paal, begging him to help her escape from Soviet-dominated Budapest, Paal arranged a "passport marriage", took her to London and gave her the leading role in his film *A Tale of Five Cities* (1951) in which an airman (Boris Colleano) who has lost his memory traces his past by means of five banknotes he has in his possession, each with the signature of a girl.

After its release, Bartok divorced Paal and in 1951 married the publisher William Wordsworth. The international flavour of her career was quickly established — her next roles took her to Italy (*Venetian Bird*, 1952) and to both the Bay of Naples

and the island of Ischia for one of her best remembered films, *The Crimson Pirate* (1952).

Though plagued with difficulties during shooting (at one point the star Burt Lancaster called its director Robert Siodmak "a silly old has-been") and rumoured to have been started as a straightforward action tale then switched midstream to farce, it proved enormously popular.

In 1956 Bartok went to Hollywood

took claimed that Sinatra was Deana's father.

Bartok's film career continued to take her around the world — British films included *Operation Amsterdam* (1959), as a member of the Dutch resistance in 1940, and a fanciful adventure tale of a bunch of plane-crash survivors who find they have landed at the site of an H-bomb test, *S.O.S. Pacific*, recently described by its director Guy Green as "pretty indifferent". In 1963 she made a gruesome horror film in Italy, *Sei donne per l'assassino (Blood and Black Lace)*, about a string of fashion model murders, which has gained a reputation due to Mario Bava's atmospheric direction and striking use of colour.

Milford Haven had introduced Bartok to the teachings of the Indonesian guru Pak Subuh, and in 1963 Bartok gave up her career and took her daughter to live a life of "peace and tranquillity" in Jakarta, Indonesia. She then moved to Honolulu, where she opened a school to teach the Subuh philosophy.

Bartok returned to acting in 1974 when she appeared with the soccer star Pele in *Pele, King of Football*, but it failed to promote further film offers. Recently Eva Bartok, described by her former agent as "at one time one of the most photographed women around and one of the most beautiful women in the world", had been living in a hotel in Paddington.

Tom Vallance

Eva Martha Szoke (Eva Bartok), actress; born Keokemet, Hungary 18 June 1926; married first Giza Kovas (marriage dissolved, second Alexander Paal (marriage dissolved), third William Wordsworth (marriage dissolved), fourth Curt Jurgens (one daughter; marriage dissolved); died London 1 August 1998.

the pirate Lancaster to swap sides and, instead of helping a Spanish tyrant quash her father's rebellion, lead his ramshackle bunch of swashbucklers to achieve the island's independence.

But Bartok's career failed to move into the major league. Her next roles were in B movies, as a mathematician who stows away in a space rocket with the scientist she loves in *Spaceways* (1953) and a duplicitous diamond smuggler in *Park Plaza 605* (1953). She made several films in Germany, including three with her fourth husband, Curt Jur-

gens, *Der Letzte Walzer* (1953), *Rampeplatz der Liebe* (Circus of Love, 1954) and *Orient Express* (1954), but it was her provocative personal life that made her name familiar to the public, notably her stormy marriage to Jurgens and a highly publicised five-year affair with the then Marquess of Milford Haven, who had been best man at the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. Bartok was named in his wife's divorce action.

In 1956 Bartok went to Hollywood



Bartok with Burt Lancaster in *The Crimson Pirate*, 1952

MSI



Lt-Cdr Derek Howse

WHEN DEREK Howse was the head of a large and active Department of Navigation and Astronomy at the National Maritime Museum, there was a project he would say he was saving "for my dotage". He never reached his dotage, but in retirement he did write a biography, *Nevis Maskelyne the seaman's astronomer*, published in 1989, of the fifth Astronomer Royal. In the preface Howse explained that his ambition to write on Maskelyne went back as far as 1967 and, more precisely, to a conversation he had had in the Meridian Building of the Old Royal Observatory at Greenwich with Colonel Humphrey Quill.

Quill was Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers and the author of a fine biography of John Harrison. He had brought a manuscript to show Howse, who thought at first it was a collection of notes by Maskelyne in preparation for an autobiography. Howse decided "there and then" to write the book that was to appear over 20 years later.

The story is interesting on several counts. Quill and Howse were sitting in the building where for 46 years Maskelyne had carried on his astronomical work. Howse leaves the reader of his preface to notice another coincidence: the date he is careful to mention, 1967, was the 200th anniversary of Maskelyne's greatest achievement, the inaugural year of the *Nautical Almanac*.

At that point in his career Howse had no publications to his credit; indeed he had been professionally involved with historical and curatorial

work only since 1963, when he had joined the Museum as an Assistant Keeper. It seems rather a sudden resumption on the basis of a slight command of the available sources. But whether instinctively or on account of some prior knowledge, Howse may have recognised a rapport between his subject and himself. As a young man Maskelyne went to sea on astronomical and navigational ventures at the behest of the Royal Society and the Admiralty, before spending most of his working life in the Observatory at Greenwich. Howse was a seaman and navigator, who enjoyed a second career in the Old Royal Observatory much in the company of astronomers.

In an excellent biography, Howse describes a likeable, helpful, clubbable, friendly man, who enjoyed the company of family, friends and colleagues, and who enjoyed his work. The parallels are obvious. At the end of the standard record of acknowledgements, Howse takes the unusual step of thanking his subject for having a legible hand and a "pleasant personality", which "made the writing of this book a most agreeable task for me".

Howse was born in Weymouth in 1919. His father was a Captain in the Royal Navy, and after entering the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1933 as a cadet, Howse was at sea as a Midshipman by 1937. As Sub-Lieutenant and Lieutenant he served throughout the Second World War, in the Battle of the Atlantic, in the Dover Straits and North Sea, and in

the Mediterranean. He specialised in navigation and in aircraft detection, was mentioned in dispatches three times and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in 1945.

It was typical of Howse to be modest about his war service and his friends learnt little about what lay behind this distinguished record. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Commander in 1949, and his post-war service included navigating the cruiser *Newcastle* during the Korean War. He retired in 1956.

After several positions in the commercial world, Howse found his métier in 1963, when he joined the National Maritime Museum as an Assistant Keeper in the department of the distinguished historian of navigation Lt-Cdr D.W. Waters. His timing had been perfect: the museum was set for a period of development unimaginable today and Howse had the challenge of turning the observatory buildings recently vacated by the astronomers, the historic meridian building in particular, into one of the world's great astronomical museums. Howse grasped the opportunity with characteristic energy, delighting in recovering and restoring the original instruments to their proper settings, and founding his displays on scholarly research preserved in his 1975 volume *Greenwich Lists of Observatories: the buildings and instruments*.

Howse became Head of Navigation and Astronomy in 1976, with the rank of Keeper in 1979. He ran a good-humoured and productive department, promoting *esprit de corps*, encouraging his staff in their various projects and taking pride in their success. He wrote one of his most successful books, *Greenwich Time and the Discovery of the Longitude* (1980), recently republished among many authored and edited books and articles on the histories of navigation, hydrography, astronomy and horology.

As his scholarly work gathered pace, Howse gave the impression that he was enjoying it all enormously. It gave him particular pleasure that, having been a naval cadet by the age of fourteen and without having attended university, he was becoming respected in an academic field. Yet there was nothing pompous about his occasional reference to his lack of formal qualifications, rather a modest and genuine surprise at what was happening to him. This aspect of his career reached its zenith in 1983 when, on retirement, he was appointed to a Visiting Professorship attached to the Clark Library of the University of California, Los Angeles.

His productivity was scarcely affected by retirement. In 1982, when he was appointed a Caird Research Fellow at the National Maritime Museum. Among other work, his valuable international compilation of observational instruments to 1850, the Greenwich Lists of Observatories, appeared as a special issue of the *Journal for the History of Astronomy* in 1986, his biography of Maskelyne was published in 1989, and a history of Radar at Sea in 1993.

Among other marks of distinction,

Howse became President of the British Astronomical Association, President of the Scientific Instrument Commission of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, and a Liveryman of the Clockmakers' Company. He served on the councils of numerous societies and had a wide circle of friends who shared his interests. He particularly relished being secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society Club, whose dinners are linked to the monthly meetings of the Society, and also enjoyed the meetings of the Equinocial Club of instrument enthusiasts who, as might be imagined, dine less frequently.

A final and signal award to Derek Howse will be posthumous. The Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of Navigation will be presented in October to mark his service to the history of navigation. It is a recognition in which his many friends will take particular pleasure.

Jim Bennett

Humphrey Derek Howse, naval officer and historian of astronomy and navigation; born Weymouth, Dorset 10 October 1919; DSC 1945; MHE 1954; Assistant Keeper, Department of Navigation and Astronomy, National Maritime Museum 1963-69; Head of Astronomer 1969-76; Deputy Keeper and Head of Navigation and Astronomy 1976-79; Keeper 1979-82; Caird Research Fellow 1982-86; married 1946 Elizabeth de Warrenne Waller (three sons, one daughter); died London 26 July 1998.

K. W. Gransden

K. W. GRANSDEN, poet, scholar and literary critic, was a man of many and varied talents, whose life no official title can encapsulate. Emeritus Reader in English and Comparative Literature at Warwick University is part of the story, but he was more than that.

Ken Gransden was born in 1925 at Herne Bay in Kent, and educated at the City of London School. After military service he went up to Jesus College, Cambridge, where he took a double First in Classics. One of the brightest young graduates of his day, he was approached by the spy service, but declined, preferring instead to take up the post of assistant keeper of manuscripts at the British Museum, where he worked from 1951 until 1957. In these austere surroundings (like a monastery but without the consolations of religion, as it was once described) he met Antonia Harrison, whom he married in 1956.

He was simultaneously pursuing his literary interests, writing poems, reviews and occasional pieces; his first book, *John Donne*, was published in 1954, and a collection of his poems, *Any Day*, appeared in 1960.

When he was invited to become literary editor of the *Listener*, he left the museum to immerse himself wholeheartedly in the vibrant life of literary London in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

There were numerous visits to the theatre (this was the period of *Look Back in Anger* and the revival of the British stage), glamorous parties, and the opportunity to meet and entertain the leading literary figures of the day. Edith Sitwell came to tea, and E.M. Forster, who came down from Cambridge to talk about his work, read Babar stories to Gransden's young daughter. Gransden kept up the connection with Forster, and later wrote a book about him, *E.M. Forster*, which Forster himself read in typescript. Another publication from this period was his study of Tennyson's *In Memoriam* (1962).

After such a dazzling early career it was fortunate indeed for the then new Warwick University that Gransden was persuaded, in 1965, to become one of the four founding members of the Department of English and Comparative Literature. This last book brought together in

Gransden served as Chairman, and played an active part in teaching for the degree in English and Latin Literature. One of the high points of my time at Warwick was the seminars which I taught together with Gransden, when for me, as for the students, his learning, sensitivity and enthusiasm brought life to the poems we were reading.

He continued to write poetry, and a collection, *The Last Picnic*, was published in 1981. For many years he was one of the judges of the Gregory awards for poetry, a role which he particularly valued, as he describes in the introduction to *The Gregory Anthology 1987-1990*, jointly edited with Alan Brownjohn.

In his later years he turned back more and more to the study of classical poetry, particularly Virgil. He published editions of *Aeneid* viii and x, *Virgil's Iliad* (an intertextual study of Homer and Virgil), a volume on the *Aeneid* in the "Landmarks of World Literature" series, and finally *Virgil in English* (1996), an anthology of translations of Virgil from Chaucer to Seamus Heaney. This last book brought together in

a peculiarly appropriate way the various strands of Gransden's intellectual life, the poetry, the scholarship and the keen critical judgement, which he exercised on classical and English literature alike. It also demonstrates that for him the study of classics was not simply an antiquarian indulgence, but part of a living literary tradition.

Ken Gransden's career was highly successful, but like many gifted people, he was a vulnerable human being. It was a great stroke of luck, the goddess Fortuna perhaps, which caused him to meet Maureen Daniels, with whom he shared many years of happiness. Her warmth and earthiness complemented his somewhat excitable and highly strung temperament. They were chalk and cheese, as she herself says, but they admired each other for their differing qualities, and together they enjoyed life's many pleasures: gardening, walking, and swimming, dancing, travelling, music, food and wine.

Music was a lifelong passion, particularly opera, and in his later years he also discovered that he could paint. Ken Gransden was a true Epicurean in the enjoyment of life, never advertising his talents, nor overly concerned with worldly success. He was a secular man but with a spiritual side, which became increasingly evident in his long and often painful final illness. This he bore with remarkable equanimity and inner strength, sustained by the love of Maureen and the family. He continued to compose poetry, and when he could no longer write, he recorded his musings on tape. His wit, charm and elegance never left him, and he died as he had lived, a truly civilised man.

When I visited him in the hospice where he lay dying, he showed me his commonplace-book which he kept with him, now that he was no longer able to use his library. He had inscribed it with an epigraph in remembrance of Horace in the "Iustis satis bibit. Tempus abire est" ("you've enjoyed yourself, indulge yourself. It's time to go"). He had a good life, he said, and was happy with all that he had experienced and done.

Penelope Murray



K. W. Gransden
K. W. Gransden, poet, scholar and literary critic, born Herne Bay, Kent 24 February 1925; Assistant Keeper of Manuscripts, British Museum 1951-57; Lecturer, then Reader in English and Comparative Literature, Warwick University 1965-91 (Emeritus); married 1958 Antonia Harrison (two daughters; marriage dissolved 1977); died Warwick 25 July 1998.

JULY 1998



Louther with Linda Gibbs in *The Road of Phoebe Snow*, London Contemporary Dance Theatre, 1971

Anthony Crickmay

William Louther

WILLIAM LOUTHER was an unusually talented individual whose powerful but brief impact helped shape the beginning of British contemporary dance.

His image as a performer remained fixed in the mind of anyone who saw him dance. He possessed not only a sensational, impeccable athleticism, but also a fine-drawn beauty and magical theatricality.

In Britain he is most identified with Peter Maxwell Davies's *Vesalius Icons*, premiered in 1969 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and written for Davies's own music ensemble, the Fires of London, a solo cello (Jennifer Ward Clarke) and a dancer. Davies specified images inspired by the anatomical drawings of Vesalius and the Stations of the Cross, and found in Louther an ideal choreographer and performer. Louther's powerful geometries recalled Graham's precept about the importance of gesture, the gesture that is pure and does not lie.

Louther began to train as an actor at the High School of Performing Arts in New York, but switched to dance after seeing a concert by the school's dance department. Later, he went to the Juilliard School, studying ballet with Antony

Tudor and Graham technique with Martha Graham. In 1953 he joined a company headed by May O'Donnell, a former dancer with Graham, then danced with the mostly black Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre and with Martha Graham's own company, creating roles in both.

In 1964 he danced in London with Ailey's company. Reviewers noted his lithe elegance and intensity and were particularly impressed by a solo in Talley Beatty's *The Road of Phoebe Snow*, which contained, as Clive Barnes wrote, "a series of jets in which Louther reverses his body at the top of the jump". In 1969 he was back again with Graham's company, and a few months later with Donald McKayle's show *Black New World*, which traced the black American experience through song and dance.

London became a home. He was a founder member of London Contemporary Dance Theatre and appeared in the company's first London season in 1969 at The Place, dancing Graham's seminal trio *El Penitente* and Ailey's strenuously virtuosic solo *Hermits Songs* in which, as the critic John Percival recorded, he displayed "such modesty,

such involvement and such perfection that it almost looks easy".

During the early Seventies, Louther toured with LCDT, creating roles in works by Robert Cohen and Barry Moreland. Steeped in Graham technique, he also acted as a teacher to his fledgling British counterparts; he was an immense inspiration, reminding them in his classes and his performances that dance was about theatre and communication.

Yet the dazzling comet of Louther's career soon fizzled out. Deep within his genius were destructive seeds and colleagues found it hard to work with his demands and reliance on alcohol. He himself wanted to continue choreographing and found performing too much of an additional burden.

Later, developing arthritis, he was also to say that he preferred not to sabotage the memories of his sensational virtuosity. In 1972 he took up an invitation to direct and choreograph in Israel, with the Batsheva Dance Company, which he did for two years; in 1975 he directed Welsh Dance Theatre for a year.

Thereafter he dropped largely from view, re-emerging on occasion for one-off performances, either in his own or other small companies' productions. He taught at many vocational schools and earned a reputation as a remarkable, exacting teacher with a gift for pinpointing precisely what he wanted from his pupils. Because his own training had covered a broad span, he liked dancers to be rounded performers, able to combine speech and song as well as movement, and he founded Dance and Theatre Corporation, a part-time company that mirrored this. He himself was an accomplished singer and had studied the piano to professional level at Juilliard School.

His final years were happier. He met a journalist, Sharon Atkin, when she interviewed him for the Caribbean Times, and they married in June 1996. The same year in Israel, as a wedding present for Sharon, he choreographed a duet called *Obsession* for himself and the Russian ballerina Galina Panova; and before falling ill last year he had been busily making another work with Panova.

Nadine Meisner

William Louther, dancer, choreographer and teacher: born New York 22 January 1942; married 1996 Sharon Atkin; died London 7 May 1998.

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CHALMERS: James Alexander Chalmers, peacefully at home on 1 August 1998, aged 86 years. Widower of Penelope and father of Ian, Penelope and Lucy. Funeral service 9.30am Church, central Oxford, afterwards at Edward Road, Oxford, this Thursday 7 August, 11.30am. Flowers to A.W. Bruce, 29 Rogers Street, Summertown, Oxford. Telephone 01865 310907.

MARSHALL: Sir Roy Marshall, Lady, 71, August 1998, after a courageous fight against a long and debilitating illness, beloved and loving wife of Sir Roy Marshall, wife of Susan, Elizabeth, Tony and Sarah. Devoted and cherished grandmother of Caroline, Rachel, Jenny, Lucy, Lain, James and Samuel. Service at the Hallenprince Cemetery, Witterby, near Hull, 12 noon, Friday 7 August. No flowers please, but if desired donations for the Hull University Student Community Action, 227377.

PORTWAY: Daphne Laura Maud, daughter of the late Donald and Maud Portway, dearly loved cousin and friend, suddenly on 21 July 1998, at Spire College Chapel, St Catherine's College, Cambridge. There will be a memorial service at St Peter's Church, Cambridge, 11.30am, followed by a service at the Eltham Scout Hall for Nature, "World Wide Fund for Nature", 10 Victoria Park, Cambridge. Telephone 01223 559430.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £5.50 a line (£1.10 extra).

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr E. Xhigoli and Miss J. E. Gayler. The engagement is announced between Mr E. Xhigoli, of Pristina, Kosovo, and Jane Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.R. Gayler, of Kempford, Gloucestershire. 29

BIRTHDAYS

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, 93; Mr James Arbutnott MP, former government minister, 46; Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Bayly, 84; Mr David Bedford, composer, 61; Mr William Cooper, novelist, 88; Dr Jack Cunningham MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office, 59; Sir Rustam Feroze, gynaecologist, 78; Professor Hugh Freeman, psychiatrist, 69; Sir George Godber, former chairman, Health Education Council, 90; Miss Georgina Hale, actress, 55; Mr Martin Jarvis, actor, 57; Mr David Lange, former prime minister of New Zealand, 56; Mr Ian Newton, former Headmaster, Bedales School, 52; Mr Simon Preston, organist, 60; Mr John Spalding, former chief executive, Halifax Building Society, 74; Mr Peter Squires, rugby player, 47; Mr Bowen Wells, MP, 63; Sir Michael Weston, former UK Permanent Representative to Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 61.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Tradescant the Younger, horticulturist, 1608; Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet, 1792; The Rev Edward Irving, Presbyterian minister and theologian, 1793; Joseph Proskof, music teacher and composer, 1794; Georges de la Guérinière, Cayla, poet, 1810; Ernst Kossak, philologist and journalist, 1814; Arthur Heygarth, cricketer, 1825; Domenico Morelli, painter, 1826; Walter Horatio Pater, essayist and critic, 1839; William Henry Hudson, writer and naturalist, 1841; Knut Hamsun (Pederson), writer, 1859; Sir Harry Lauder (MacLennan), comedian, 1870; Sir Osbert Lancaster, artist and writer, 1908.

Deaths: Henry I, King of France, 1060; Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, killed in battle at Evesham, 1265; Sebastian, King of Portugal, killed in battle 1578; Thomas Strelley, adventurer, killed in battle 1578; William Cecil, first Baron Burghley, statesman, 1598; John Burgoyne, military commander and playwright, 1792; John Bacon, sculptor, 1799; Jean-Baptiste Vianney, priest, 1859; Hans Christian Andersen, writer of fairy tales, 1875; Giovanni Muzioli, painter, 1894; Baron Carl Auer von Welsbach, chemist, inventor of the gas mantle, 1928; William Babington Maxwell, novelist, 1938; Pearl White, St Sezzi.

Today is the Feast Day of St Ia, St John-Baptist Vianney, St Molua or Lughaidh and St Sezzi.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Bridget Crowley, "Flight G: Detroy - Two Paintings of Jason and the Golden Fleece", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Timothy Wilcox, "The Ioniades Collection", 2pm.

Tate Gallery: Jacqueline Ansell, "Painted Ladies and Perfumed Men: dress in Tudor and Stuart paintings", 1pm.

British Museum: Sally-Anne Ashton, "The Alexandrian School: reality or myth", 1pm.

Wallace Collection, London W1: Rosalind Savill, "Neo-Classical Sévres Porcelain Vases", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Christopher John Lethem, to be a district judge, South Eastern Circuit.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

Dr Doris Littlejohn, to be Chairman of Court, Stirling University.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

HISTORICAL NOTES

PAM HIRSCH

Friendship of two women spat at

WHEN MARIAN Evans commenced writing fiction, she was "living in sin", with a married man, and felt sure that her books would not receive a fair hearing from the critics. She was sadly aware that Mary Wollstonecraft's and George Sand's work had been maligned and misrepresented because of the irregularity of their personal lives. Imagine her delight when, in 1859, after the publication of *Adam Bede* under the pen-name "George Eliot", she received an ecstatic letter from a woman friend who had recognised her friend, simply by reading reviews of the book:

I can't tell you, my dear George Eliot how enchanted I am. Very few things could give me such pleasure. First that a woman should write a wise and humorous book which should take a place by Thackeray. Second that you whom they should spit at should do it!

This letter was from Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon, the leader of the Langham Place feminists, named after the address of the feminist journal she had founded. The two women had met in 1850 when Marian had immediately been attracted to Barbara's intelligence and noble looks. She also empathised with Barbara's anomalous social position. She was the adored daughter of a radical MP, but she was illegitimate, the outcome of a liaison between her father and a milliner from Derbyshire. Barbara grew up determined to fight "the unjust laws both of society and country which crush women". In 1854 she published a pamphlet which summarised *Laws Concerning Women*, explaining that when women married they lost their legal identity - their husbands owned their property, bodies, even children. Barbara followed up on the outcry that followed the publication of her pamphlet with a petition to Parliament. In the space of a few short months she circulated 70 petitions and achieved 26,000 signatures.

Barbara had introduced her friend to the *Tales of the Arabian Nights*, in particular the story of Perizel, who had set out on a quest and succeeded where her brothers had failed. Both Marian and Barbara had overbearing brothers and so took a particular delight in this tale. But more poignantly, the story also dealt with a disgraced mother, who had been accused of producing monsters instead of children. As a punishment the mother had been

locked in a wooden shed and the men going to the mosque had been encouraged to spit in her face. Both Barbara and Marian had been on the end of the Victorian version of spitting, one for her illegitimacy, the other for her elopement. Marian in turn had been cut when she "eloped" with George Lewes. Now, however, Marian's books were rehabilitating the reputation of their author.

Marian went on writing books. Barbara continued with her campaigns, including one in 1866, to try to obtain the vote for women. Her last major campaign was the founding of the first university college for women, Girton College, Cambridge. This was a long-drawn-out and dispiriting affair. After one dismal Girton committee meeting Barbara had written to her friend,

"I am very grateful to you dear Marian for that book & I know it will help us, in fact when some of our Council were very down I felt partly hopeful because [of] the last few pages of *Middlemarch*." These words are: "The growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs."

They seem particularly apt for the "first friend" of George Eliot, Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon, whose name should be honoured by women everywhere, yet, until now, has hardly been recognised.

Pam Hirsch is the author of "Barbara Leigh Smith Bodichon: feminist, artist and rebel" (Chatto & Windus, £20)

Black unity stops at call for Mandela's release

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

4 AUGUST 1987

Few people know what Nelson Mandela looks like. To his supporters he is the symbol of the struggle, but to the government he is an unpredictable trump card

larily remarkable at a time when the United Democratic Front, the spiritual successor to ANC, has been crippled by detentions and emergency restrictions, and the government is offering talks to black leaders and even elected places on the Consultative Council, the proposed body which is to advise on a new constitution. If ever there was a time for a individual black leader to pick up the ball and run with it, this is it.

But the unanimity on the political prisoners does not extend further among black political organisations. The government maintains that blacks are divided by tribe. In fact tribe plays little part in black South African politics, but they are deeply divided along ideological lines. Apart from its ability to co-opt homeland leaders and armies for them, the government is able to recruit extra police from the rural homelands to keep the townships under control. Government spies are acknowledged to be everywhere. The ANC holds no areas.

Radical black leaders from both traditions still at large in South Africa, who would not be quoted, say there is little prospect of resolving these divisions and forging unity by agreement. They acknowledge they are a major obstacle to liberation. And even those who spoke of "one more push" as recently as a year ago are now talking of a long haul - as much as 25 years.

Richard Dowden

From the Foreign News pages of *The Independent*, Tuesday 4 August 1987. The Law Report resumes with the Law Term in October

WHO PUT the urgency into emergency?

WILLIAM HARTSTON
emergency, n.

Yet it has assumed an aspect of crisis.

Both emergence and emergency were originally used in the literal sense of anything that turns up or

emerges. In the 17th century, they both also had the specific meaning of the rising of a submerged body above the surface of the water. Around the mid-18th century, they diverged. An emergency may be worth commenting on, but an emergency demands attention. A useful distinction, especially in an emergency.

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

emergency, n.

Yet it has assumed an aspect of crisis.

Both emergence and emergency were originally used in the literal sense of anything that turns up or

Gambling is a serious addiction, and fruit machines offer an easy way in for children. By Emeka Nwandiko

Luke, 15, gambles away all his cash every week. It's something to do, he says



Andrew Buurman

Hi-tech, sophisticated gaming machines offer a temptation that many youngsters find hard to resist

Last month, Luke Bishop cut school several times to spend his days in the place he loves most. Despite the ear-bursting clatter of machine-guns and the sound of spent cartridges hitting the floor, Luke's face is a mask of concentration as he plays on a one-arm bandit in his favourite central London amusement arcade.

Luke (and five of his mates) have gone to the West End to celebrate the beginning of the holidays by spending his weekly pocket money of £10 on fruit machines.

Every Saturday without fail, 15-year-old Luke makes his appointment with his local fruit machines in Watford and every week he spends all of his paper round earnings - £15 - on one-arm bandits. He admits to winning hardly a penny for

all his efforts. With a shrug of the shoulders, Luke dismisses the losses he makes on his favourite pastime. "It's something to do."

According to recent figures, Luke is one of 2 million 12-15 year-olds who spend their pocket money on fruit machines. It is estimated that as many as 100,000 members of that age group have a serious gambling problem. As he sips a soft drink through a straw, Luke says he does not believe that he is addicted to fruit machines, even though he has been playing them since the age of 12. "It's all about having fun," he says with a chubbily-faced smile.

Even at the expense of missing school? He gives a knowing smile, and focuses again on the slot machine. Since we started talking, he has put in £2 and has not won a penny.

Such behaviour is familiar to Paul Bellringer who, as a director of the Na-

tional Lottery draw. Of that 75 per cent, a hard core of 5 per cent are likely to exhibit antisocial behaviour - truancy and stealing from parents - to fund their gambling habit.

Luke insists that he is not part of a

gambling "gang". Neil, who reveals that he has been gambling for four years, confesses to losing £100 a week on fruit machines. He says he funds his habit with money he gets from a generous grandad and from various people".

The Gaming Board has urged parliament to set an age limit on the country's estimated quarter of a million fruit machines. Tom Kavanagh, secretary of the Gaming Board, says that the 1988 Gaming Act applies to an era when fruit machines were nothing more than "a ball bearing dropped into a hole". The fruit machine that 11-year-old Jeremy Oakley and his 14-year-old brother Alastair are playing is a storm of flashing lights and zapping sounds, and they are lured by the potential £1 prize.

Jeremy and Alastair are dilettantes; they have been gambling for

only a year, mostly during holiday periods. But Bellringer is concerned that even sporadic gambling can at some point lead to serious addiction - and he blames adults for making it acceptable to kids to do so. "What adults - and teenagers - don't realise is that fruit machines are a low-stake, low-input, high-frequency game that is interactive and can get youngsters easily hooked," says Bellringer. He points out that the deregulation of betting shops in the early Nineties (when high-street bookmakers no longer had to block out their windows) and the National Lottery have both contributed to making gambling acceptable to the young. An estimated £5.5bn is spent every year on the National Lottery, and Bellringer wants the use of fruit machines to be restricted to over-18s.

MP Robin Corbett. "Gambling is not a playful, innocent pastime. It can lead to serious addiction." Corbett says he will raise the issue with the Home Secretary in October to deal with child gambling in poor families. He is particularly concerned with tackling what he calls the "gambler's way out of the ghetto mentality".

But Jeremy and Alastair; who live in the leafy Surrey town of Godalming, scoff at this view. "It isn't about becoming millionaires. It's about the fact that you can win something by putting a little money in," says Alastair, who reluctantly reveals that he habitually puts "a little money in" the machine until he has none left.

Jeremy is unrepentant. "If children want to waste their money, it's up to them how they do it!" Names have been changed.

REVELATIONS

IMOGEN STUBBS, ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, CHISWICK, 1967

I'd rather be in church than on stage

I've often been asked what made me want to go into acting but up to now I've thought up lots of reasons that weren't true. Thinking about this interview it suddenly struck me that singing in the church choir was very formative. For some people smelling twisted candy can take them back to childhood, but it is stained glass windows and incense which sends me skimming backwards to six years old again. It is not a comfortable emotion.

I was a terrible tomboy, and I called myself Buzz because I couldn't bear my real name. We lived on a sailing barge, my dad was in the navy and it was the cheapest way we could live in London. Television reception was appalling, and having only a crackly, black and white set, we had to think of other things to do in the evening. My mum was very musical and her family would sing rounds while they did the washing up! I found it excruciatingly embarrassing and never understood why they enjoyed it. I would think, 'Oh no, it's going to be me in a minute. My mother would look imploringly at me not to let her down.'

My brother, who is two years older, had a lovely voice and became a head chorister. Rather than to instil me with godliness, I was sent

along so my parents had Sunday and Thursday evenings to themselves! Fortunately, it was the kind of choir where anyone could join - a great leveller. So my lack of natural ability did not matter or perhaps with only chipboard between my bedroom and the sitting room, something sunk in each night while my mother played the piano, ten yards from my ear, and my father slept.

Although St Nicholas was a Protestant church, it was all about ceremony. To start off with I used to be upset by some of the formality - why did everyone bend over when the vicar said: 'he died and on the third day he rose again?' However I liked the sweets we were given and the nice outfit: little blue cassocks with white ruffs and a medallion depending on what status you had, mine was very low. We would walk, in procession, into the church and I suppose as a little child I looked quite sweet holding my candle. Services were always full of incident, we used to play snap in the pews, or marbles, which ended up rolling towards the vicar.

In a church choir, you reach an

mercenary. I remember a wedding where the bride was asked whether she "took this man" and answered no! There were gasps, she rushed off crying and nobody knew what to do. Finally we were hustled back into the vestry and everybody trooped out of church. Who needs theatre?

One of the reasons I particularly liked the choir was a boy called David Denyer; where is he now? He

was gorgeous: around 16 years old, tall, dark-haired with lovely blue eyes. I really used to love him. He must have given me some chocolate or something - at that age you love somebody because they notice you. At funerals we would be singing next to the coffin, a very grown-up experience for a child. I was not only part of the salve of singing, but also pushing the triggers which would reduce people to tears. Although we would try to be dispassionate, we were inevitably drawn in because that is what music does. It's amazing that one combination of notes is very moving and another is not. I'd sing wonderful pieces of Bach without even understanding the words, but I'd be aware of the congregation sobbing their hearts out. No wonder, today, I often think of the audience as the congregation.

At such an early age you do not

normally experience grief or love as something so great. Yet I discovered the hugeness of the emotions that lived in my heart, brain and stomach. Normally they are tucked away but when they erupted they flooded out of me. The choir also gave me the understanding of how a group of people could be all moved together, uniting in something that is abstracted from them. It makes you feel larger than the size of yourself. Because it happened to me early, perhaps that is why I am constantly trying to re-create it.

I went to Westminster School where I was an OK soprano. Every morning we would sing in the Abbey which was really thrilling. I was one of the few girls so I could hear my voice echoing back and people would stare at me. Later I sang with the Chiswick music group where we did the Benjamin Britten Operas.

Church was a fantastic theatrical grounding, even if we were only performing to 15 old ladies. We were definitely "on display".

I didn't sing much after leaving RADA. However when I went to auditions, instead of thinking about

what I was saying I'd remember the music for "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind", and blub. The words of hymns and carols just break my

heart, it is a wonderful asset to have this emotional sponge inside me. I have performed in a couple of musicals. I was a passable Sally Bowles in Cabaret, but lamentable as Polly Brown in The Boyfriend. The anonymity of the church choir is very different from being under a spotlight in tap shoes, trying to sing your heart out. I was so execrable they put the spotlight anywhere but on me. Disgraceful!

In my twenties I thought it was naff to be in a choir almost amorally, but now I have to confess it is something I hugely miss. I would love to get that high again, it's much better than appearing in the West End.

It feels weird, another life that I don't need anymore - a bit like knowing a language but never going to the country. Sadly, my parents are both dead so music has a particular power to move me. The other day I heard a piano piece my mother used to play and it was like being punched in the stomach. Talking about it, I have an urge to leap into a taxi and go to the nearest church so I can drown myself in music.

INTERVIEW: ANDREW G MARSHALL
Imogen Stubbs is appearing in 'Closer' at the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London



Imogen Stubbs: 'I was a terrible tomboy'

John Mills 1950

Wings of desire

Britain's new millionaires share a dream - to own a private jet. But this is one mile-high club that's not so easy to get into.

By Alex Hayes

The current dilemma facing Mr Blair and the Queen over which make and model of plane to order is less unusual than you may think. They are not the only ones exchanging notes on the economic, moral and practical advantages of their favourite plane. (An American-style Airbus would be Mr Blair's choice, while the image-conscious Queen favours a smaller executive jet such as a Falcon or a Gulfstream.)

For Britain's self-made millionaires, too, such top-of-the-range shopping is far more complicated these days. Private jets were once the property of large organisations, heads of state, exceptional entrepreneurs such as Bill Gates, and a handful of Hollywood stars including Jack Nicholson and John Travolta. Arnold Schwarzenegger waived his \$20m fee for starring in *Total Recall* in return for a Learjet. It was thought to be a useful tool for his political ambitions at the time.

Now private jets are transporting hundreds of new-rich Brits. David Hood of Pace Micro; the Britpop band Blur; Bernie Ecclestone, the maestro of Formula One; David Whelan, of JJB Sports - all these people are acquiring the once-exclusive jet. (Of course, everything is relative. Despite a huge increase in sales in the last five years, there are still only some 270 jets in the UK. Compare that to the 5,000 Ferraris that grace our shores, and their exclusivity is apparent.)

In the last two years, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation has had to increase its production by more than 100 per cent. "In the first six months of 1998 alone, we have delivered 43 aircraft already, compared with 35 at the same time last year," says Tricia Bergeron, Gulfstream's vice-president of corporate affairs. In basic economic terms, current demand far outweighs supply. There just are not enough aircraft being built for those who want them.

The Gulfstream owners' list reads like a Who's Who of the late 20th century. Clients include Henry Keswick, Lord Rothschild, the Sultan of Brunei and Joe Lewis - and the recently launched GV is selling well despite its £24m price tag. Falcon Jets, owned by the French aerospace company Dassault, is the only remaining European manufacturer of private jets. It supplies most of the EC governments - among them France, Italy, Germany and Belgium - with the 900 model, a similar aircraft to the Gulfstream IV.

For newer, less established, less wealthy buyers, it is a case of getting hold of whatever jet may be available. "This is a problem," confirms Mike O'Kane, president of Wings Associates, a jet sales company in the United States. "The current economic boom - in the US and the UK especially - is creating a large pool of individuals with a high disposable income, and they want something to spend their bonuses on." Don't you feel for them? They are very rich, and willing to part



Britpoppers Blur are among the new breed of Learjet travellers

John Gladwin

with their money, but can't get their hands on this new trophy. The situation is pushing many potential buyers on to the second-hand market.

You can now buy a second-hand jet for as little as £500,000. It may sound like a lot of money, but when you consider that the McLaren F1 car is more expensive than a Cessna Citation, it is easier to understand why more people are investing in jets. Jets may be expensive but they are practical, they save time and they are, relatively speaking of course, an affordable commodity for many people. You can buy a jet, use it for 70 hours a year yourself and charter it for the remaining 400 hours. This way, the aircraft's costs can be recouped. If you are slightly less ambitious, you can part-share a jet with friends or colleagues. Companies such as Netjets in Switzerland offer a cheaper way in to the dream world of planes. You can buy a jet's nose or tail in the same way

as you may invest in a racehorse's leg. However, a recent explosion in the number of second-hand buyers has only added to the difficulties for would-be purchasers. Once again they out-

number the sellers. "Gulfstream IVs, a model which is 10 years old, are selling for more money than they were bought new. Buyers believe that if they are prepared to part with £20m, they

should be able to walk out of the store with the goods," points out a private jet salesman. As for smaller, less expensive second-hand aircraft, they are extremely rare.

It is difficult to assess whether large manufacturers such as Gulfstream, Lear and Falcon have genuinely been caught out by the sudden boom, or whether they are carefully controlling the flow of sales. While supply remains lower than demand - providing that it does not totally dry up - interest in jets will remain high. Since the beginning of time, many people have wanted to be a part of a small, exclusive club.

For some, the dream may be owning a football club or a Ming vase. For others, having their own jet represents the ultimate achievement. Such a prize possession is a way for individuals to grade their success. And while that remains the case, private jet sales are cleared for take-off.

JOIN THE JET SET

THERE ARE currently some 270 private jets in the UK. If you would like to join that exclusive band, the information here may be useful. A plane will incur high running costs - £500,000 will buy a plane, not fly it. Set aside another £500,000 for yearly costs. Jet ownership is cheaper, not cheap.
Bombardier Global Express, £25m
Cost of smaller planes:
Cessna Citation, £2.5 million new, £500,000 second-hand
Hawker, £5.5 million new, £3.75 million second-hand
Joint ownership:
Netjets 00 411 815 5402
Main manufacturers:
Gulfstream 0171-433 0888
Falcon 0181-897 6031
Cost (new and second-hand):
Gulfstream V, £25m
Falcon 900 Ex, £23m
Famous owners:
The Royal family
Sultan of Brunei
Tom Cruise
Bernie Ecclestone
Mohamed Al Fayed

How do you live with the death of a child?

After the death of a child, how best can bereaved parents move on with their lives? By Virginia Ironside



John Ward spent 10 years seeking his daughter's killer

was inevitable; there was nothing anyone could have done to prevent it happening. Knowledge of what occurred is a victory over feelings of guilt - an emotion that nearly always features strongly after the death of a loved one.

Then there is anger. Parents of children who die in hospital sometimes rage against doctors, who have often given them their best service to save them. Or they rail against tiny things, such as the nurse forgetting to put sugar in their tea. They need someone to whom to focus their anger. Discovering who killed their loved ones is a way of getting revenge. Ernest Peters, whose wife Wendy died of peritonitis after her bowel was pierced during an operation, was offered £105,000 in compensation. But compensation wasn't what his dis-

treess was about. "When she died, I wanted to pin someone to the wall," Mr Peters has said. "Solicitors do not think in those terms. For them, it just boils down to the settlement figure. They weren't interested in investigating the causes. Everyone needs to have a look at what is going on so that it doesn't happen again. I want someone hauled over the coals."

John and May MacGallard got £50,000 when their daughter Lorraine died from septic shock after a series of blunders by doctors who failed to realise that she had an ovarian cyst. "This was not about money," they said. "Those doctors ignored a girl in pain. We wanted to go to court to get the truth." And Margaret Connor, whose daughter Janine died during an operation to have her ears pinned back, said: "They've offered us a settlement, but we don't want it. We want our day in court. We just want answers."

Finding out what happened can often result in steps being taken to ensure that it does not happen again. In this way, the parents can

"I WANT to make sure something is done so that children are properly screened in the future," Grahame Livingstone, father of 21-month-old Michael, who died of undetected heart failure on Sunday has one way of coping with his little boy's death: he needs to make sure that it will not happen again.

Why? What happened? Could I have prevented it? Who is to blame? These are some of the questions that people ask when they are bereaved, and often they cannot rest until they find the answers.

Ten years after Julie Ward's death, a Kenyan gamekeeper has been charged with her murder. Her father, John, can finally say: "Now, at last, I can get on with my life." But why did he need this? After all, his daughter will never come back. What has been the point of spending the 10 years, a quarter of a million pounds and 80 trips to Kenya to discover her murderer?

Julie's mother explains: "I desperately want to know what happened and why. It is only when you

feel that their child didn't die in vain - that the child's short life did achieve something, even though he or she did not live long enough to achieve anything in adulthood.

Anthony Misiolek lost his daughter in the M40 minibus crash; she died partly because there were no seat-belts fitted in the minibus. He has devoted much time to trying to tighten up the laws on seat-belts. Suzy Lamplugh's mother Diana set up a trust in her daughter's name to help protect women against predatory strangers, and Colin Parry, whose son Tim was killed in an IRA bomb blast, has since lectured on peace in Northern Ireland.

Getting to the bottom of things is also a way of continuing to look after a child, even after he or she is dead. When your child is bullied at school, you speak to the head teacher, or confront the bully in the playground. If you did nothing, you would be failing your child. Finding out who killed your son or daughter and bringing them to justice is the final, saddest, act of parenting.

JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

8. CHEESTRINGS
BY DEBORAH ROSS



JOHN LAWRENCE

Cheestrings. Beautiful things to eat. Beautiful, pealable, addictive, irresistible, scrumptious, faintly cheesy, stringy things which may or may not be made from two parts latex and one part rubber bands. Frankly, I don't really want to know.

Anyway, pop it from its pack, and out it shoots, like a rubbery, vivid orange sausage which, should it hit the floor, will bounce in a most delightful way.

Of course, you may have developed your own technique for eating them, but for myself I think the best way is to start at the top, catching a teeny bit between thumb and forefinger, then pulling down in as steady a fashion as you can manage.

Sometimes you will get a satisfyingly big string. Sometimes you will get a teeny little string, like a bit of sewing thread. You never quite know what you're going to get.

It's a brilliantly exciting, unpredictable food. In its stringiness, it's rather like celery but with none of the disadvantages of celery and not being especially worth the effort and making a terrible noise, such that you are not allowed to do it in front of Animal Hospital.

Cheestrings are blissfully quiet, all told. You can even do them during football on the telly and not get told off. You can do them secretly and not get found out.

"Who ate the last Cheestring?" "Not me!"

I don't remember how we first came across Cheestrings, an invention so clever that whoever thought of it left out the middle "e" in his or her excitement. Perhaps our young son saw one in someone else's lunch box and started up a campaign. However, I don't think this is likely, as I refuse to give in to children's campaigns until I can't be bothered any more, and then do.

Alternatively, I may have just seen them in Tesco and thought:

"Those look spectacularly vivid and rubbery. I'll take 72." Whatever, in terms of cheese snacks, the Golden Vale Cheestring is a vast improvement

from a Cheestring? And not go anywhere at all?

That's such a lazy, decadent, rubbish idea. I'm entirely up for it, of course.



After years of mudslinging, the Cambridge Footlights troupe have finally hit the spot with their exuberant revue, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*

Sheila Burnett

They're funny? What happened?

The Cambridge Footlights aren't funny. Everyone knows that. Except this lot. By James Rampton

You can see the headlines now. "Cambridge Footlights in quite good show, shock horror!" Over the years, Cambridge University's most famous revue troupe have been almost as negatively reviewed as a new musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Footlights is a byword for everything that is most puerile and self-indulgent about student revues - all jokes about cucumber sandwiches and punting by performers in boaters and waistcoats.

The company have always got the critics' goats. In 1959 the *Daily Sketch* asked: "What has happened to the Footlights?" Jonathan Miller wants to be a chemist and not a theatrical cult - I back his judgement." Three years later, the *Oxford Mail* reckoned that "somebody's doused the Footlights ... Two numbers, not so much sick as sadistic, are the work of John Cleese and Graham Chapman, who are responsible for a lot of the poorer material."

The reviewer in the *London Evening News* thought that the 1963 show "can be recommended only to

the parents and friends of those taking part - very fond parents, very close friends". With a perspicacity that only critics can manage, he went on to predict that for the company which included Eric Idle and Graeme Garden "this will probably be the only occasion the cast can be seen on the

praising that this year's show, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, is not at all bad. Although containing the bodily functions sketch without which no student revue would be complete, the majority of the show exudes exuberance. There are some sparklingly energetic ensemble set pieces including a hopeless four-man acrobatic troupe who are trying in vain to conceal the rather obvious fact that one of them is a corpse. Individually, the performers are strong too. Richard Ayoade and John Oliver run through a neat ditwits' double act. "Why do Irish people dance like this?" asks one, acting out *Riverdance*. "Because they've had their arms decommissioned."

That's not to say that the company aren't aware of their sometimes baleful reputation. "There is this feeling that anything from Oxbridge gets slammed as elitist," sighs Dr Harry Porter, the Footlights' long-standing archivist. "It's automatic. Recently, the company went to Manchester, and I said I could write the reviews beforehand - 'Why are these snooty Cambridge people expecting us to pay money to watch them?' - and it was almost exactly that."

professional stage". Since then the reviews have, if anything, become even more vituperative. "This show is unfocused, immature, well-produced trash trading on its name, and these students, like most students, should shut up until they grow up," thundered *Scotland On Sunday* about the 1995 offering.

Which makes it all the more sur-

prising that this year's show, *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, is not at all bad. Although containing the bodily functions sketch without which no student revue would be complete, the majority of the show exudes exuberance. There are some sparklingly energetic ensemble set pieces including a hopeless four-man acrobatic troupe who are trying in vain to conceal the rather obvious fact that one of them is a corpse. Individually, the performers are strong too. Richard Ayoade and John Oliver run through a neat ditwits' double act. "Why do Irish people dance like this?" asks one, acting out *Riverdance*. "Because they've had their arms decommissioned."

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assimilated the legacy of an entire musical culture. They borrowed oothong they could not pay back with interest, and what they borrowed came with all its social and political implications intact. You don't just get the tunes in *Porgy and Bess*, you get the whole emotional subtext across countless generations of the African-American experience. You get the journey - the hopes, the fears, the

aspirations. George and Ira Gershwin could relate to that. When they penned "My Man's Gone Now", the synagogue and the southern baptist church were suddenly of one mind, one voice, one song. And it mourned, it wept, it ached real bad - but it was good, real good.

So you need to know how this music goes; you need to have known it, as it were, in another life. And Wayne Marshall did, be really did. But - and there is a "but", a big one - Marshall is a terrific pianist, but he's a fledgling conductor. And it showed. Not in his face, his body language, and his self-evident relish of all that great score has to throw at us, but in his ability to realise it in the sound. That's technique. Watching him, you knew how

Oliver, too, regrets that the company has fallen victim to some class warrior-style sniping about Footlights being stuffed to the gills with Hoary Henrys and Henriettes. "One reviewer said, 'these are overpaid students with names like Tamzin', and we were killed as toffs by *The Daily Star*. It's unacceptable to poke at people for their backgrounds. But if the definition of privilege is being offered good opportunities, then we have to take it on the nose because it's true."

But surely some of the slatings have been justified? "There has been valid criticism in the past that the show has been too self-reflective and navel-gazing and angled too much towards students," admits Daniel Morgenstern, the Footlights' treasurer and tour co-ordinator.

That's just one reason why Footlights this year have brought in an outside director, Cal McCrystal, from the innovative Peepolykus theatre company. He hopes to dispel the spoilt-brat, Bridgwater tag: "There was this image of people swigging champagne and spouting jargon like 'pledge' for the porter's lodge," he says. "They gave the im-

pression that they were the *crème de la crème*, and a level of youthful arrogance came out. That's why we've got this self-indulgent reputation. When I first went to Edinburgh in 1978, we used to glare in restaurants at Footlights people like Griff Rhys Jones and Clive Anderson.

There has been valid criticism in the past that the show has been too self-reflective and navel-gazing

They had canes and boaters and did tap numbers about sandwiches."

The company are now suffering because the mud slung at them in the past has stuck. "A lot of the problem stems from the fact that the Footlights are an icon, and icons are there to be knocked down," McCrystal continues. "Critics have gone with an agenda - 'can I see the new John Cleese?' - and

inevitably been disappointed."

McCrystal is attempting a Mardefonian re-branding exercise by presenting this year's Footlights as a *Confederacy of Dunces*. "The big change has been moving from a typical self-congratulatory Footlights approach of 'this is very witty' to something more of a belly laugh," says Oliver. "*Between a Rock and a Hard Place* is not a clever-clever show. It's supposed to be stupid. We've developed sides of ourselves to be laughed at. In the past, the typical Footlights way was to place yourself above the joke and say, 'I'm better than this'. Here we put ourselves below it and set ourselves up for a fall. It's more satisfying than the normal, stand-offish student revue."

But this is just one Footlights company performing one show for one season. As Oliver puts out, "next year they may go back to men in boaters singing songs about punting on the Cam". God forbid.

The Cambridge Footlights show, "Between a Rock and a Hard Place", is at Pleasance One in Edinburgh (0131 556 6550) from 5 to 31 August and is then touring the country.

Minor's major work

CLASSICAL

CLASSICAL OPERA COMPANY
BUXTON OPERA FESTIVAL AND
ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

MOZART HIMSELF was never a Finta (or, being male, a Finto) Semplice - a "mock simpunction", which is the title of one of those early operas he precociously penned while scarcely out of nappies, under the watchful eye of his astute father, Leopold.

Quite the contrary. By the ages of 11 and 12 the young Amadeus had shown himself a true beloved of the Gods: a composer already of breathtaking genius. Just the opening bars of his chirpy first symphony confirms that, yet knowing only Mozart's boyhood opera *Bastien und Bastienne*, warbled on LP by a dinky pair of Vienna boys, I was totally gobsmacked by the past week's feast of youthful operatic Mozart.

Two of his stunning boyhood stageworks have just been dusted down: *La Finta Semplice* at the Buxton Opera Festival, nestling beneath its glorious Derbyshire moorland backdrop, and *Apollo et Hyacinthus* by the newly formed Classical Opera Company at the Royal College of Music in Kensington, a quill's throw from the Royal Albert Hall.

These youthful Mozartian pécadilloes need no apology. Each is a compact minor masterpiece. The former takes its title from the piece's principal lady (her exquisitely soaring arias sung here by Janis Kelly), a madam of means who feigns naivety in letting herself be wooed by two brothers - the one, Doo Cassandro (Jonathan Besti) a randy, street-wise soldier, the other, Don Polidor (the deliciously vulnerable Paul Niloo), the real "simpleton" of the opera.

Much of the fun comes from the zany shenanigans of this ludicrous double-wooming. Christopher Wood's designs - fire-some phallic but all in gorgeous blues and greens, with ingenious shifting perspectives - delighted the eye. Aidan Lang's witty direction was usually tight and canny. Guido Johannes Rumstadt's conducting teased out, time and again, the exquisite skein of this bewitching score. The ensembles of Così peeled out in embryo; even Count Almaviva was prefigured in Besti's drunkenly philandering Cassandra - who finally wins the bird. Si-mone, the batman (David Stephenson), has whiffs of Figaro potential.

To cap even the delights of Buxton, the Classical Opera Company's polished débüt in *Apollo et Hyacinthus* proved a pearl beyond price. Just nothing seemed to go wrong. Yet here was a work of staggering beauty, riddled with sweet noises like Caliban's echocanted isle. The Philadelphia-born countertenor Lawrence Zazzo delighted eye and ear as Apollo; Ryland Angel was a pouting Zephyrus (the jealous west wind, villain of the piece); and Sarah Fox as Hyacinthus radiated presence and sang everyone off the stage. Sets (Atlanta Duffy), lighting (Bruno Poet) and direction (Olivia Fuchs) were top-rate. The backstage crew deserved an Oscar; and Father Rufinus Widi - the un-crabby Salzburg professor of syntax who furnished Wolfgang with his artfully sanitised libretto - a laurel wreath. *Apollo et Hyacinthus* may be the most poignant "school play" ever written. No wonder all Vienna went nuts about the boy.

Apollo et Hyacinthus runs till 31 July (0171-589-8212).

RODERIC DUNNETT

Rowdy rhapsody in black and white

PROMS

WAYNE MARSHALL
BBC SINGERS
BOURNEMOUTH SYMPHONY
CHORUS
BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

THE MAN entrusted with the first-ever Proms performance of the Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* made a lightning switch from conductor to bar-room pianist, from the person of Wayne Marshall to that of Jasbo Brown, in the opening minutes of this much-loved classic. One moment he was powering the BBC Concert Orchestra through the jazzy xylophone-crazed incantations of the prelude, the next he had donned his battered trilby and was jangling out the low-down blues on a low-down honky-tonk. He knew where it was coming from: he'd digested it at thoroughly as had George Gershwin himself. And that's important, because the real glory of *Porgy and Bess* lies in the fact that the Gershwin wins not only recognised but easily

itself sound, how he wanted it to sound. The reality was rather different. Marshall's volatility was clearly hard to read. Ensemble was frequently dodgy, rubatos clumsily turned, and phrasing either short or long-winded. Bottom line: you cannot communicate the multiplicitous phrasings of this score simply by feeling them. Dynamics were all ratcheted up too loud, frequently at the expense of singers (though I liked the edge of the BBC Concert Orchestra - a brazen, showbizzy edge where woodwind likes it out and horns behave like saxophones), and when he did "find" a genuine climax, as at the end of act three, scene two, where Sportin' Life's temptation of Bess is ripped out in a brassy reprise of "There's a Boat dat's

leavin' soon for New York", he spoilt it by over-egging it. As I say - technique, and experience.

My other problem was the chorus. No disrespect to the BBC Singers and Bournemouth Symphony Chorus, but they were white, very white. And that's the difference between being part of the revivalist meeting and simply an uninsured guest at it. Accept no substitutes. You wouldn't, couldn't, among the principals. Several here were veterans of Catfish Row - and while the years may have taken some of the lustre off the voices, Willard White's Porgy and Cynthia Haymo's Bess are still in remarkable shape. Whee White sings "when Gaud make the cripple, he mean him to be lonely", his life's story flashes before your eyes. When

Haymon sings anything at all, you hear a voluptuous woman denied her dignity. "Summertime" finds longing in Maureen Brady's pristine top; as Serena, Cynthia Clarey's soaring mezzos can still make it over to the "other side"; while Michael Forest's Sportin' Life (a little too "soft-grained" operatic for me) finds redemption in Ira Gershwin's waspish lyrics.

So, too, the excellent Marietta Simpson, who sees him off with her deliciously venomous "rap" trade "I hates yo' struttin' style". That's a scene-stealer up there with Hyacinth Nicollis' Strawberry Woman's street cry. Who White sings "when Gaud make the cripple, he mean him to be lonely", his life's story flashes before your eyes. When

EDWARD SECKERSON

And Death becomes him...

PROMS

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
ROYAL ALBERT HALL



Pianist András Schiff

IT IS, I suppose, a tragic fact of history that ethnic cleansing and political murder are as real for listeners today as they were for those of 50 years ago, and that the musical commemorations of Nazi reprisal killings and the murder of a Czech student still seem frighteningly contemporaneous. Indeed, last Thursday's Prom recalled an alarming evening back in October 1965 when a young Czech student was stabbed to death for "demonstrating his enthusiasm for higher education". The words are those of Leoš Janáček, who composed an intense Piano Sonata in the student's memory. András Schiff's performance drew maximum expressive capital from the eerily repetitive slow movement. Death, holding fast to an extremely broad tempo and investing each episode with a wealth of subtle shading. The first movement is marked *Präsentieren con moto* and, again, Schiff's fundamentally ten-

inal version, and I now understand why critics brand it uniplastic. This being Dvorák, there are lovely ideas, not least the first movement's winding first theme, its polka-like second subject, and virtually all of the second movement. But the instrument that seems surplus to requirements is, oddly, the piano. Virtually everything of interest resides in the breezy orchestral score, whereas the poor soloist is saddled with endless sequences and vapid passage work.

Paradoxically, it was the wind section that fared best in the closing account of Brahms's Second Symphony, most notably the horn section and Lorna McGhee's expressive flute embellishments of the first movement's lyrical second theme. In other respects, the performance was distinguished more by the clarity and sensitivity of Belohlávek's conducting than by instrumental finesse. It was a well-structured reading that lacked both serious flaws and notable virtue.

The concert opened with Bohuslav Martinů's gut-wrenching memorial to a Czech village which the Nazis annihilated as a reprisal for the assassi-

nation of the "overlord of the Protectorate of Moravia and Bohemia", Reinhard Heydrich.

Memorial to Lidice is sullen and sombre, as economical and centred as Janáček's Sonata is free-wheeling and fiercely neurotic. Belohlávek's performance had all the right ingredients, but the BBC Symphony's ensemble left a good deal to be desired, especially among the woodwinds.

As to Thursday's performance, the conductor Jiri Belohlávek drew some nicely arched phrasing from the BBC Symphony strings, but Schiff - who played from memory - pulled too many punches, preferring filigree finger-work and elastic rubato to a more obvious show of grandeur.

The concert opened with Bohuslav Martinů's gut-wrenching memorial to a Czech village which the Nazis annihi-

Suffering for their art

POP

HIS NAME IS ALIVE
SPITZ, LONDON

begins teasing riffs from his guitar, it's difficult to know whether the organ player Erika Hoffman's look of open-mouthed disgust (directed at DeFever) is a reaction to his choice of song, or just a fey expression of disguised bewilderment.

Either way, it doesn't bother DeFever, who sits casually hunched on a guitar case, bare-footed and cross-legged, absorbed in his own endeavour. HNIA's generally under-rehearsed performance does DeFever no favours; it goes beyond the quirksiness that is inherent in their eclectic approach (their music over the years has plumbed the depths of blues, dub, gospel, country and psychedelia, incorporating twisted ethereal harmonies and a whole

variety of skewed rhythms, speeds and unusual chord changes). The raw sound fails to exploit their off-kilter eccentricity, which is normally regarded as one of their strengths, and one of their most intuitive traits; the bongos and organ become washed up in the waves of re-sounding guitars.

It was always going to be an awesome task to replicate something like *Fort Lake* on a live scale, but there is just no comparison between the two. The gospel singer Lovetta Pippen's soul style doesn't translate well from the album, but the real missing ingredient seems to be the voice of regular collaborator Karla Oliver, who was unable to make the journey due to commitments back home. As Pippen sings *This World is Not My Home* to close the show, it's painfully obvious that with or without Oliver, HNIA are suffering for their art.

VELIMIR PEVLE ILIC

July 1998

Minor
major
work

CLASSICAL
LANDSCAPE
STUDIES

SMART LIVING

HOME & GARDEN

TRAVEL

ENTERTAINMENT

ARTS

OPINION

OBITUARIES

HEALTH

I've lost my keys... I'm going mad

Memory loss amounts to the failure of a fallible filing system – but it can often be easily fixed. By Annabel Ferriman

Increased forgetfulness as the years go by is disturbing, partly because it is easy to panic and imagine the symptoms are a sign of something more serious. Medical experts, however, are reassuring about the problem. "People worry about it far more than necessary," says Dr Christopher Martyn, of the MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit, Southampton. "They think their memory lapses are pathological, when they are quite normal."

To improve your memory, it is important to analyse why you forget things. Memory consists of three functions: registering new information, filing it away, and retrieving it. Your memory can fail because of weaknesses in any or all of these functions and, in some cases, the condition is eminently treatable.

If you are not registering new information properly, it could be because you are anxious or depressed. "When you have a patient who might be demented, the first thing to ask yourself is, is this person depressed?" says Dr Martyn, who works part-time as a consultant neurologist at Southampton General Hospital. "Depression is as common as dementia in older people and can be treated."

In a pamphlet called *Memory and Dementia* produced by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, doctors provide helpful hints about taking things in. "You can't remember what you never heard or saw in the first place. So you need to keep yourself alert and make yourself notice the things that you need to. For instance, you may find it helpful to repeat the name of a person you have just met," it says.

Memory is all about paying attention, which can be a problem for people with short concentration spans. They can also suffer from what psychologists term "information overload" where they simply have too much information to process and file away. Some may fail to take things in because of alcohol, tranquillisers, chronic pain and head injuries, all of which can also affect retrieval.

Certain medical conditions also affect memory. An underactive thyroid gland slows down the whole body – including the brain – severe heart or lung disease starves the brain of oxygen, and both high and low levels of blood sugar and diabetes interfere with the way the brain works.

But by far the most common reason for memory loss is the normal process of ageing, which makes it harder for us to retrieve the information that we want from our filing systems. The best way to deal with it, says Dr Martyn, is to cheat: "Sometimes people confront these problems head on, instead of thinking of ways round the problem. The easiest way to deal with memory loss is to outsmart it. If you cannot remember what you should be doing, for example, keep a diary."

Dr Martyn's booklet, *Forgetfulness and Dementia* (Family Doctor



The normal process of ageing makes it increasingly difficult to extract things from our mental filing cabinets John Lawrence

series) has a dozen different tips on how to sidestep the problem, from always keeping a notebook with you for writing down tasks, to labelling cupboards and drawers, and deciding on a particular place for articles that you frequently lose.

Unfortunately, there is no evidence to suggest that if you constantly exercise your brain with games and puzzles, it keeps your brain alert in every area. It will help you to remain good at the particular game or puzzle that you do, but it will not keep you as capable of learning a new language or musical instrument as you were when you were 30.

Patrick Rabbit, professor of cognitive gerontology at the University of Manchester, has carried out extensive research in this area and claims that it is not all bad news. "We got two groups of people together: one group in their early 80s and the other in their 50s, who were equally fast in doing cryptic crosswords and compared them in various ways," he says. Although they were equally good at crosswords, the older group did not perform nearly as well in intelligence tests. "What we seem to have found is that, if you go on practising some particular skill, you can

maintain your competence in that skill into old age, but it does not seem to generalise to other areas.

"The good news was that the rate at which the two groups improved with practice was comparable. Both groups improved enormously over 36 weeks and the difference between a practised elderly person and an unpractised younger person was enormous."

But although doing endless mental puzzles does not keep your brain in all-round tip-top condition, there are certain things you can do to try to keep your memory as good as possible. "Unfortunately, they are all the usual boring things, like keeping your weight down, taking regular exercise, not smoking and only drinking homeopathic amounts of alcohol," Professor Rabbit says.

Alzheimer's disease, however, is a different prospect. There appears to be little you can do to prevent it and the strong genetic component means that certain people seem destined to develop it. The only consolation is that it is still comparatively rare. One in five people over 80 suffers from dementia (of which Alzheimer's is the commonest cause), but that still means four out of five do not.

Professor Howard Jacobs, of the endocrinology department at Middlesex Hospital, says: "There is some evidence that taking hormone replacement therapy may delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease – four out of five recent studies showed it to be useful – but it is too early to recommend it as a proven preventive measure."

The disease can usually be distinguished from normal age-associated memory impairment (AMCI) because it is often accompanied by changes in personality (the victim becoming irritable, withdrawn, rude, scruffy, idle or suspicious) and by difficulty with skills learnt early in life, such as dressing and using a knife and fork.

Despite investing a huge amount of money in Alzheimer's research, the pharmaceutical industry has yet to find a cure. The new drug Aricept, for example, which was launched in Britain last year, is only of limited use. The herb industry and the supplement manufacturers are making dramatic claims for the ginkgo leaf, but large-scale studies are still needed.

So if an elderly relative seems to be developing really serious memory loss and personality changes, the

best course of action is to have them thoroughly investigated to rule out other causes, such as the presence of tumours, stroke or blood clots, some of which can be treated.

If your relative definitely has Alzheimer's, there are one or two practical techniques that can help, such as keeping them in familiar surroundings and practising "reality orientation", in which the helper constantly tells the sufferer the day, date, time and what is happening. According to the Royal College of Psychiatrists, "it is a bit tedious but, up to a point, it works".

Of course, there are certain advantages in not remembering everything. The philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said that it meant he could enjoy many things over and over again, as if for the first time. Dr Christopher Martyn also says forgetting is a useful process to stop the brain getting too cluttered: "Your brain stores what it considers important and discards what it thinks is trivial."

Memory and Dementia, available free (with SAE) from Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG.

HOW RELIABLE IS YOUR MEMORY?

Circle the number (1-4)
1 = Never or hardly ever (a few times a year or less)
2 = Occasionally (a few times each month)
3 = Often (a few times a week)
4 = Very frequently (every day)

How often do you find yourself...

1. Forgetting where you have put something around the house?

1 2 3 4

2. Failing to recognise places that you are told you have often been to before?

1 2 3 4

3. Having to go back to check whether you have done something that you meant to do?

1 2 3 4

4. Forgetting to take something with you when you go out?

1 2 3 4

5. Forgetting that you were told something yesterday or a few days ago, and maybe having to be reminded about it?

1 2 3 4

6. Failing to recognise, by sight, close relatives or friends that you meet frequently?

1 2 3 4

7. When reading a newspaper or magazine being unable to follow the thread of a story; losing track of what it is about?

1 2 3 4

8. Forgetting to tell somebody something important. Perhaps forgetting to pass on a message or remind someone of something?

1 2 3 4

9. Forgetting important details about yourself – for example, your date of birth or where you live?

1 2 3 4



10. Getting the details of what someone has told you mixed up and confused?

1 2 3 4

11. Forgetting where things are normally kept or looking for them in the wrong place?

1 2 3 4

12. Getting lost or turning in the wrong direction on a journey, a walk, or in a building where you have often been before?

1 2 3 4

13. Doing some routine thing twice by mistake. For example, putting two lots of tea in the teapot or going to brush your hair when you have just done so?

1 2 3 4

14. Repeating to someone what you have just told them or asking them the same question twice?

1 2 3 4

Score:

14-19 Your memory is excellent.

20-39 Your memory is average but you might find advice on memory aids useful.

30-39 Your memory is below average. This may simply mean that you lead a very busy life.

40-56 Your memory is very poor. Frequent memory lapses are likely to have a serious effect on the way you cope with daily life. There may be several reasons for this, but it would be sensible to discuss it with your GP.

Taken from: *'Understanding Forgetfulness and Dementia'* by Dr CN Martyn and Catharine Gale, Family Doctor series £2.49.

Having a gas in the lab

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

passing wind. The device is known, quaintly, as the Toot Trapper.

Manufactured in Houston, Texas, the Toot Trapper is a rectangular pad lined with charcoal, worn like a nappy and described as "unwieldy" by the researchers. However, it does work cutting the sulphurous content of the gases 11-fold. But second-generation Toot Trappers could be developed which might be less cumbersome yet just as effective, the researchers suggest.

The lab team observes in their paper that farting has been a subject of scientific and scatological interest since the beginning of recorded history. While the social significance of wind derives mainly from its smell, most of the scientific

research has focused on its quantity, which ranges from a light breeze of 200ml a day (a small cupful) to a hurricane force 2.5l.

The anecdotal belief that men produce more objectionable farts – the technical term for wind – than women was not supported by the US study. It showed that women are the worst offenders in terms of odour, although men made up for it in sheer volume. The researchers note, however, that the ability of malodorous gas to stimulate the nose is related to the volume expelled, rather than the concentration of its noxious components. Because men tend to pass greater volumes on each occasion there were "no significant gender differences".

The key cause of odour was found to be hydrogen sulphide, a by-product of the gut's sulphate-reducing bacteria. Sulphate is found in broccoli, cabbage, nuts, bread and beer, and sulphurous amino acids are present in protein. The gases could be reduced by manipulating the "colon flora" or by binding the sulphate so that it cannot be broken down. For now, though, the answer seems to be that wine-drinking fruitarians make the sweetest-scented partners.

Vitamin B6: the debate goes on

Three million people take it. Nutritionists recommend it. But the Government won't make a decision over safe levels. Why are so many well-informed people arguing? By Jerome Burne

LAST WEEK the curtain fell on yet another episode in the long-running vitamin B6 debate. The Government has now decided that the nation's health can safely survive another two years without any decision on how much vitamin B6 can be taken without risk of side-effects. Meanwhile a new committee will look at safe levels for all vitamins and minerals.

An estimated 3 million people take high doses of 100mg-200mg of B6. Most of them are women who claim it helps with menstrual tension, but men at risk from heart disease may take it too.

Nutritionists also claim that high doses are useful in treating other conditions, including depression, morning sickness and the side-effects of HRT.

"Our advice is still that the safe level is 10mg," said a spokesman from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF). Such advice is, however, a climb-down from a year ago when Jeff Rooker, the newly appointed food safety minister, declared that in the light of advice from a scientific advisory committee there was a risk of nerve damage from overdosing. And within a few

months the Government was planning to ban the general sale of larger amounts of B6.

This change sparked off a vociferous media and lobbying campaign. Some 110,000 letters were written to MPs and early day motions were signed by an almost unprecedented 200 MPs. In May the decision was looked at again by the Commons' agriculture select committee, which roundly condemned the 10mg limit as "scientifically unjustifiable".

Rooker was furious when we got the committee to take the matter up, declared Christopher Whitehouse, who company, Good News Communications, handled the parliamentary lobbying.

"Pressure was put on the Labour members to vote against an investigation, but it turned out that one of them regularly took 200mg of B6 daily and another used other supplements, so that was the Labour majority gone."

Out of 49 submissions, 45 opposed the Government's proposal and the committee issued a damning report. They recommended 100mg as a safe level and lambasted Professor Frank Woods, head of the orig-

inal government advisory committee, as "cute almost to the point of rudeness in responding to articulate and well argued criticisms".

So what is the poor consumer to think? The Committee on Toxicity (COT), consisting of 16 eminent scientists, says 10mg. But the B6 Task Group of 230 British doctors and scientists criticised COT's findings, and the evidence of the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on B6 involved 50 nutritional and medical experts found no

adverse effects below 200mg and recommended a level of 100mg "to be super-safe".

How can experts come to such different conclusions? Partly because of a clash of medical cultures. Traditionally the medical profession has never taken seriously the "supplement and extra vitamins" approach to health. It is frequently said that there is no hard evidence that exceeding the recommended daily allowance does any more than give you very expensive urine.

But increasingly research is

suggesting that extra supplements can have a protective effect. One, cited in the NAS report, found that not only was B6 effective in reducing heart attacks, but the more you took, the greater the protection, up to about 100 mg. Last year another study found that massive amounts of vitamin E also protected against heart attack.

What is more, the hard evidence for limiting B6 turned out to be shaky. In the end COT's position rested on two cases, both of which were discredited.

All this has raised the issue of the quality of advice that the Government is getting. Lady Mar, a vociferous campaigner on the dangers of organophosphates, feels that the whole system of advisory committees, with senior scientists meeting in private, needs reforming.

"The professors are looking for money for research and a major source of funds are the chemical and drug companies. The committee needs to be more open, and drawn from a wider cross-section."

The Group on Vitamins and Minerals, minus Professor Woods, follows exactly these principles, so the B6 debate may yet have a useful ending.



B6: nutritionists claim they are very beneficial

John Vass 15/50

Far too long on the couch

Psychoanalysis may be a costly mistake. By Jack O'Sullivan

The Beatles were just becoming famous and Harold Wilson had yet to be elected prime minister when George had his first session with his psychoanalyst. When he finally stopped paying the bills, John Lennon was long dead. Margaret Thatcher had been running the country for nearly a decade.

Yet George felt no better.

Twenty-four years on the couch had left him so depressed and phobic that eventually he could not drive himself to see the analyst. A taxi picked him for his weekly session, waited outside with the meter ticking for 50 minutes, then brought him home again. One-third of his small and irregular income had gone on the therapy.

He was 63 years of age. "When I gave up, I was coming up for my pension. I thought to myself, 'This is the end of my life and I've paid all this money and I'm worse than when I started.' But it didn't end there. After he complained about the length of time his treatment had taken, his analyst gave him several years of free sessions followed by a period of chats on the phone. Margaret Thatcher fell from power. John Major came and went. Tony Blair arrived in Number 10.

In all, the relationship continued for nearly 35 years. But for George relief did not come until nine months ago. His GP prescribed Serovat, an antidepressant drug. "I'm a changed man," he says, now aged 73. "I'm much better than I was, confident.

able to go out. It's given me a chance to live a little."

But this relief has also left him angry about decades spent with a psychoanalyst, whose principles eschew drug therapy, who never suggested a second opinion - a professional who never entertained the possibility that George was in fact clinically depressed, in other words affected by a chemical imbalance that talking alone could not resolve.

George has a file of correspondence with his analyst and of unsuccessful complaints to the national body which he is accredited. Interspersed among the letters are desperate notes hand-written over the years such as "Long-term psychoanalysis is the nearest thing to legalised mugging. Your brain is scrambled and your bank account damaged beyond belief." Another note asks: "Why is it that the sick and gullible are not protected from falling into this addictive trap?"

It is a question that those who recognise the benefits of the talking cure - but who worry about abuses and incompetent practitioners - are now asking of the Government. In opposition, Labour expressed considerable interest in creating a respected regulatory framework for therapists in the mental health field, to protect people such as George. His GP prescribed Serovat, an antidepressant drug. "I'm a changed man," he says, now aged 73. "I'm much better than I was, confident.

Nicholas Cage and Elizabeth Ashley in 'Vampire's Kiss'. There is no regulatory framework for therapists to work in

have had meetings with Paul Boettig. The Government is saying you have made your case, but there is no parliamentary time. Meanwhile, in the rest of the business there are 67 different bodies, which cannot agree among themselves on training, examination or regulation. The combination of their confusion and a government lacking in political will means that anyone can call himself a practitioner."

The results of this neglect have been devastating for people such as George. His psychoanalyst may be a conscientious man. But George would have had no idea what he was letting himself in for back in 1964. He found himself with practitioner obsessed with a fascinating theory that is unproven. The analyst was trained in the school of Melanie Klein, which locates formative psychological experiences in the first few months after birth. Indeed this particular individual has pursued the Kleinian ideal into absurdity, focusing on foetal experiences. Most important, Kleinian place emphasis on transference, the notion that, for ex-

ample, anger towards the analyst relates to a transfer of the patient's primitive experiences rather than anything the analyst might have done wrong. So when George complained about his treatment, it was seen as no more than a transfer of past distresses onto his analyst. His angry complaint was interpreted as a healthy development.

Reading the lengthy correspondence between the two men reveals that the analyst had extraordinary control over his patient. When George made a formal complaint about his treatment and sought compensation, the analyst persuaded him to withdraw it and promise in writing never again to pursue it. The analyst typed out the recantation on his own typewriter and got his patient to sign it. *The Independent* has a copy.

Other letters from the analyst left George terrified. On one occasion, the analyst commented on news that George had had a cancerous cyst removed from one eye. He said he was unsurprised, given George's anger which might, he said, become mal-

ignant, like a cancer, if not kept in check. This is the standard language of the analyst, finding psychosomatic expression of mental distress.

But to George it amounted to a threat that if he did not keep quiet he could contract cancer again. When George contacted *The Independent*, he also said that he felt he had been blackmailed.

His analyst had, he says, threatened to reveal a marital infidelity if

HOW TO AVOID QUACKS

- Choose someone who has achieved success with at least one other person you know well.
- Seek the telephone number and address of an independent body to which you can complain if you are at all worried about the treatment.
- Try more than one therapist. Shopping around is hard when you feel ill, but it is essential.

he pursued his case. The analyst firmly denies blackmail. But he acknowledges that in a court he might have had to refer to the event to explain how he believes George's rage reflects suppressed sexual urges. The analyst thus inspires little confidence that he respects a central tenet of the patient-analyst relationship - confidentiality. Indeed, I was surprised to find him willing to speak in detail about his patient to

me over the telephone without first seeking permission from George. It is a murky, confused story. Reality is not easy to find in a 35-year-old psychoanalytic relationship. I have not named the psychoanalyst, a man respected in his field, on the grounds of his own advanced age and because his patient declined to be identified. But I certainly would not want anyone I cared about to have attended a man whose practice is based on theories so powerful, yet so lacking scientific support.

You can understand why George now says: "I feel that I have been cheated not only out of the fees that I paid, but also out of a valuable lifetime wasted."

He has taken his case to Abuse in Therapy and Counselling, a support group in London. But in the absence of firm government guidelines as to permissible practice, George can probably achieve little. All he may be able to do now, at the age of 75, is relish the benefits of at last having found the right antidepressant drug.

Abuse in Therapy: 0171-229 9793

The end of the blood transfusion is nigh

'Bloodless surgery' could revolutionise medical procedures, as well as freeing Jehovah's Witnesses from life-or-death dilemmas. By Roger Dobson

WHEN HE booked in for a hip replacement operation, Phiroze Kapadia, a 67-year-old mathematical physicist, knew he risked losing several pints of blood. As one of Britain's 125,000 Jehovah's Witnesses, he also knew that, if a blood transfusion were necessary, he would have to refuse on religious grounds. So Mr Kapadia had his hip replacement done using so-called bloodless surgery, in which the blood spilt during surgery - normally sluiced away - is cleaned and returned to the body.

The technique is revolutionising surgery not only for Witnesses but for other patients, too, because it eliminates the risk of acquiring an infection from donor blood. It has already saved the lives of three people at one hospital who would have died as a result of massive blood loss following liver injuries.

A significant number of hospital patients are Witnesses, and the issue of transfusions is one of the most fundamental they will ever face - for some the decision will mean the difference between life and death.

"Our belief is based on the clear biblical command, which goes right back to the time of Noah, that Christians should not allow blood to enter

their bodies," says Paul Wade, the spokesman for UK Witnesses. For Mr Kapadia, who had his operation in Colchester using equipment from Basildon General Hospital - one of the few British units to have invested in the technology - there was no dilemma. "It is your own blood, and it is kept in a closed circuit. The spiritual view is that it should be discarded if it becomes detached from the body, and with this equipment it doesn't. This is equipment that every hospital should have. It's not a case of being a religious crank, because everyone would benefit."

Technology is continually throw-

ing up challenges to Witnesses. As well as the transfusion issue, there is kidney dialysis, where blood is taken out of the body and then returned, and the growing trend of people stockpiling their own blood.

Paul Wade says: "A situation where people go into hospital a few days ahead of time and store their blood is not acceptable to Witnesses. God's view is that blood is a sacred substance, and once shed it must be used for no other purpose."

However, most Witnesses find bloodless surgery acceptable. The equipment collects all the blood that haemorrhages during surgery,

mixes it with a drug to ensure that it does not clot, washes it, filters and spins out extraneous material and delivers the blood back to the surgeon, all in five to 10 minutes.

Wade says that Witnesses have been told that they must make up their own minds on whether or not this technique conforms to their beliefs.

"We don't feel it's right to make a ruling. It is down to the individual. Most Witnesses are happy to accept this equipment."

Dr Dafydd Thomas, a consultant at Swansea's Morriston Hospital, is another enthusiast. "We have had 25 people on whom we have used blood

salvage," he said. "A number who had ruptured livers would probably have died because of the amount of blood loss involved. Take-up of this technology has been slow in Britain but there is no reason why every hospital should not be using this kind of equipment."

In the USA, a series of 100 open-heart operations carried out without blood transfusions at the Cornell University Medical Center has shown that even the most complex operations can be carried out without using blood transfusions. Dr Todd Rosenzweig, who led the Cornell work, says the technology means

that the days of extensive use of blood transfusions are numbered. "In the old days, 20 years before AIDS, surgeons were relatively cavalier about blood transfusions. Now, if you talk to heart surgery patients, their main concern is not the operation but the risk of having a transfusion."

Hospitals that use the technology have reported a drop in blood transfusions of up to 20 per cent. Some clinicians believe that the need for transfusions, which have been at the centre of infection scares involving AIDS, hepatitis and CJD, will significantly decline with the increase of bloodless surgery.

How privatisation has led to a private hell

IT MAKES a kind of sense to me that most manufacturing industries and some services, such as airlines, deliver a better product if they are done for profit and with accountability to shareholders. But I have never been able to accept that there is any intrinsic reason why vital services will be more efficient if they are privatised - railways, water, electricity and so on.

What stopped the Civil Service from simply rationalising these industries themselves, if they were overmanned? Why does it make sense to pay the same managers three or four times more to do the same job? As a senior water industry executive told me recently, his job is the same; all that has changed is his pay packet and capital assets through share options.

The true cost of the Tory privatisation would include the bungs (otherwise known as sweeteners) given to investors to encourage them to buy the family silver. Only by massive, hidden public subsidies was this possible: under-priced shares and assets, huge fees to NM Rothschild and other merchant bankers and the liberty to sack large swaths of the workforce, making them effectively dependent on the taxpayer through the door.

We footed the bill for thousands

of already powerful and often rich people to become more so in the name of better services and the end of monopolies. In most cases nothing of the kind happened and, as is becoming increasingly public knowledge, dividends to shareholders and directors of the likes of the water and train industries have been huge: a survey of six water companies, for example, showed that an average of 21 per cent of the bill that you paid was given away as dividends.

On top of this, but rarely considered, is the social audit of privatisation, the less tangible costs, the human ones. The farming out of much community care for the elderly and disabled to private agencies is a fine example.

Celia is 45 and rendered wheelchair-bound by multiple sclerosis. She cannot stand or move her legs, she is without bladder control and her numb hands allow minimal dexterity. Although she can think, talk and feed herself, she needs help for basic tasks including showering, dressing, toileting and moving in or out of bed and car.

Privatising her care has resulted in her carers changing with depressing frequency. It has made the ex-nurse who won the tender from her local authority a millionaire, but that manager's individual wealth is at the expense

BRITAIN ON THE COUCH



OLIVER JAMES
Why is this system cheaper and, above all, how is it a better way to meet the needs of the disabled?

of Celia's well-being and subsidised by the low pay (around £3.50 an hour) and precarious conditions of work of her carers. She described her plight to me in a letter: "Despite the valiant efforts of my loyal husband and four children, I require daily visits from the agency carers to help shower and dress me in the morning. When this started three-and-a-half years ago, I found the intrusion of strangers into my life very difficult to cope with.

"It requires trust to be lifted from my wheelchair to the shower chair or bed, to be undressed and

to reveal where I keep my underwear or clothes: trust that I will not be dropped... trust that I will be treated with dignity and that in my dependent state where I cannot fend for myself, I will not be abused. The dependence on others is frightening."

Celia draws an analogy with child care. "A baby is completely at the mercy of its carers. It yearns for familiar carers who understand its unique needs, and the same applies to me. The more I know the carer, the better it is."

"A shower involves lifting me from loo or wheelchair on to and off the shower chair. As my legs do not work this involves a very close embrace to ensure safety. To go through this experience stark naked with four strangers in a week is horrendous.

"I have had so many different carers over the last three-and-a-half years that I can remember only a few of their names. Since I complained about this the rota manager has occasionally got it down to two carers a week. Considering that the manager was once my carer you would think she would understand how distressing this is, but she has a constantly changing, low-paid workforce. This week I had five, all but one of them strangers. I was so angry - I felt like a thing, not a person to be respected.

"By contrast, familiar carers understand my idiosyncrasies and desire to have an illusion of independence. They know where I keep my clothes and my favourite outfit, what to do if my legs spasm and the routines which ease the pain and tedium."

"I am beginning to detect in myself the depressed, resigned feeling that I have observed in babies who have had constantly changing carers. I can hardly be bothered to try and relate properly to my present ones. I worry also for the lone elderly people who make up most of the agency's clients, for whom the carer is often the only visitor of the day."

Before privatisation there were perfectly adequate public servants managing community care who were paid perhaps £30,000-£40,000 a year. What has been the point of creating millionaires to do the same job? The extra £960,000-£970,000 incurred can only have been put in their pockets by allowing them to cream off profits through exploitation of carers and taking money from the public purse. Why is this system cheaper and, above all, how is it a better way to meet the needs of millions of dependent people like Celia?

Let us hope the Government will put right the dehumanising consequences of care done for profit rather than as a service.

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MEDIA

It is the company we all love to hate. Steve Hewlett is out to save its reputation for factual programming. By Jane Robins

White knight rides in to Carlton

Steve Hewlett, the new Director of Programmes at Carlton, is best known as the editor who worked with Martin Bashir to secure *Panorama's* historic interview with the Princess of Wales - winning the highest ratings for a current affairs programme in television memory.

Since that *Panorama* coup, the rise and rise of Steve Hewlett has been something of a television industry phenomenon. A year ago he came within a hair's breadth of winning the Chairmanship of BBC 1. When he lost out in the final stages of the race, he immediately left the BBC to work for Michael Jackson at Channel 4 as Head of Factual Programmes.

Now, after only 10 months, he has again been lured away: this time to Carlton, where he will start in September. "The general perception is that Steve Hewlett has been brought into Carlton to save its reputation for factual programming, and help get its licence renewed," says an executive at a rival television company. And the thesis makes sense.

Over the past few months Carlton has had a bad press. Last year its documentary, *The Connection*, won eight international awards and was sold to 14 countries. But in May the programme was branded a fake. Instead of interviewing members of Colombia's notorious Cali drugs cartel, the Carlton team was accused of using a retired bank clerk and a friend of a researcher to act the parts.

The industry watchdog, the ITC, started an investigation, which had been active for only a few days when another Carlton programme was challenged. This time an "exclusive interview" with Cuban President Fidel Castro was accused of being cobbled together out of old Castro clips. That documentary, *Inside Castro's Cuba*, is also being scrutinised by the ITC.

Steve Hewlett must now persuade the ITC that these were rogue programmes and that Carlton's general reputation is intact. It is important that he succeeds, since it is the ITC that will decide sometime in the next few years whether Carlton's licence is to be renewed.

But Mr Hewlett's task is complicated by a history of tension between Carlton and the ITC, and, to some extent, tension between Carlton and the rest of the television business.

"When Carlton won the London franchise from Thames in 1993," says a TV executive, "there was a feeling in the industry that brave and noble Thames had been robbed of its franchise by a more philistine company. Carlton became the orangeman that we all loved to hate."

At that time Michael Green's Carlton was somewhat brash, and was promoting itself as a commissioning-broadcaster: an alien concept to producers and editors keen to see in-house programming nurtured by the big companies. The criticisms of Carlton came dramatically to the surface when the ITC published a damning report of the company's first-year performance.

It said Carlton was performing "well below expectations", and demanded "significant improvements". The watchdog also lambasted a huge Carlton success, *Hollywood Women*, dismissing its "lurid superficiality" and branding it as "essentially glib".



The world-famous interview with the Princess of Wales was the beginning of a meteoric rise in television for Steve Hewlett (below), the new Director of Programmes at Carlton

Carlton came out fighting. Its then managing director, Paul Jackson, annoyed the ITC by accusing its members of becoming mere television reviewers, and irritated the rest of the industry by praising Carlton's commercial approach. Programme-makers still remember Mr Jackson's pronouncements as a declaration that serious factual programming was dead.

Little by little, Carlton has been recovering from that rocky start. With the acquisition of Central TV it bought in a wealth of programme-making skills and by this May managed to secure a rosy annual report from the ITC.

The regulator said Central had delivered a popular and high quality schedule, and was particularly complimentary about Carlton's drama output, which included the Daphne du Maurier classic *Rebecca*, and the medieval mystery series *Cadfael*. Then *The Connection* scandal broke, and it was as if the clock had been wound back to the bad old days.

Those who have watched the rapid ascension of Steve Hewlett

think he has the right qualities to make amends between Carlton and its detractors. He has a formidable reputation as a factual programme-maker, being in one sense the inventor of the now ubiquitous docusero. Before *Vets in Practice* or *Driving School* were even dreamed of, Mr Hewlett commissioned *Children's Hospital*, one of the first big series to make "ordinary people" into documentary stars.

He also has a blue-chip track record at the most serious outposts of current affairs. He was responsible for last year's acclaimed *Provos* programme on Northern Ireland, on which he worked with veteran reporter Peter Taylor, and which included interviews with self-confessed former terrorists. It takes someone with an intelligent approach to journalistic ethics to get such controversial programming onto the airwaves.

Perhaps most important though, he is perceived as the sort of man the ITV network can do business with. Insiders say that Carlton's approach to selling its programmes to

the network centre has been too often lacklustre, that the company has not always embraced the modern cut and thrust of marketing programmes.

done a stint at the Beeb. To greater and lesser degrees, they all know Steve Hewlett and how he works.

Others think that Carlton has slipped behind on nurturing a strong

talent base. While the BBC has been constantly in the news for offering extended contracts to its stars from Jeremy Paxman to French and Saunders, and behind the scenes has been doing deals with

top directors and producers, Carlton, on the factual side at least, has been relatively idle.

Steve Hewlett is well equipped to address the problem of the talent base, but his appointment also has its critics. He is untested on the wider stage upon which he has now arrived. As Director of Programmes he will be responsible for everything from light entertainment to drama, a huge departure for a documentary-man.

And he faces a daunting challenge as part of the team that is charged with turning ONdigital into a cash cow for Carlton. Formerly known as British Digital Broadcasting, ONdigital is the £300m 50-50 joint venture with Granada that amounts to a gigantic bet that the British public will prefer digital terrestrial television to Sky's digital satellite, or the digital cable services that will be unveiled

in scoured by Sky, which has signed up all but one of ONdigital's 30 channels anyway.

But of particular relevance to Mr Hewlett is a second criticism - that some of Carlton and Granada's digital channels are not of high enough quality. According to Merrill Lynch's media analyst, Neil Buckley, they have big overlaps with each other, and it would make sense to merge them.

This presents a whole new raft of challenges for Steve Hewlett. If ONdigital's programmes are not sufficiently attractive, the project may fail to attract the two million subscribers it needs to break even, let alone pull in the five million it needs to make the £250m a year predicted by Granada boss Gerry Robinson.

It would not be surprising if Mr Hewlett is feeling a little frightened by these challenges, and by the speed with which his career has progressed. Five years ago he was a lowly editor of *Inside Story*, pitching programme ideas to the Controller of BBC1, Jonathan Powell. Now, Mr Powell is the highly regarded Head of Drama at Carlton, and Steve Hewlett is his boss.



Mr Hewlett is well trained in that world. The BBC is now run on a system of hard sell by programme-makers to channel controllers. And the top brass at ITV, the people who commission and buy programmes, have

talent base. While the BBC has been constantly in the news for offering extended contracts to its stars from Jeremy Paxman to French and Saunders, and behind the scenes has been doing deals with

THE WORD ON THE STREET



Murdoch's house, which is up

for sale. She's moved to Notting Hill, but unlike the more intrusive breed of newspaper we won't be identifying her old passion pad. Come to think of it, neither will the more intrusive breed of newspaper.

you might think that The Daily Mail would fulminate with rage at Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas. After all it is chock-full of blotter acid, mescaline, quaaludes, cocaine, grass, tequila and ether, and that's just the first page. Yet obviously the Mail's marketing department is a hot bed of liberalism compared to the editorial floor. For the Mail is the proud sponsor of the Edinburgh Film Festival's Galas, which includes Fear and Loathing and Welcome to Woop Woop by Stephen Elliott. Fortunately it is also sponsoring a film starring both horses and Kristin Scott Thomas, a *Daily Mail* fantasy if ever there was one.

Cult viewing worth paying for

ANALYSIS

PAUL McCANN

chattering classes about paying for a television channel.

Channel 4 announced last week that it will launch Film Four in November, its independent and international film channel. Film Four

will offer something different: independent films from around the world that the channel describes as "cult, controversial, uncensored and uncut". It will screen several films a night and broadcast for 12 hours a day. Crucially it will be available as part of ONdigital's terrestrial package, as part of Sky's satellite digital package and on analogue cable and analogue satellite packages. It will cost a few pounds a month on top of each operator's basic package - the final price is yet to be confirmed.

views of films that never make it to your local can be replaced with a satellite dish or a set-top box.

And as befits Channel 4's status as a public service broadcaster, Film Four can also be seen as being in the national interest.

There is no doubt that as well as annoying *Daily Mail* readers, one of the great benefits of Channel 4 has been the boost it has given to the British independent film industry.

The production of films in Britain slipped from a high of 150 films made

in the UK in the mid-Fifties to the all-time low of 24 produced in 1981. Channel 4 launched in 1982 and has since financed or part-financed 262 films. Without Channel 4 there would have been no *My Beautiful Laundrette*, no Mike Leigh films such as *Naked* or *Secrets* and *Lies* and none of Ken Loach's radical, difficult films such as *Rankin Stones*.

Many argue that Channel 4 should take a lot of credit for the fact that in 1986, the last year for which there are complete figures, there were 128 pictures made in the UK. Now, with Film Four, the channel has a solution to the problem thrown up by the success it has helped to create. In 1985 over 50 per cent of British films failed to make it to a cinema screen. Last year it was worse.

If the market for independent and foreign films is not big enough to support art house cinemas, then a real benefit of digital technology could be its use as a new distribution system. The downside is that it will not be possible to pick up just Film Four and pay for it separately. Nevertheless, it sounds at last like a killer application that will do a bit more than just make movie stars, football players and Australian media moguls richer.

THE PROPERTY pages of the current Harper's and Queen are as usual instructive of how the other half live - or rather the top 5 per cent, to be accurate. However, this time around they are more instructive than normal, containing as they do an advert for Elizabeth

BBC PRODUCERS are outraged at plans by the corporation to hold onto any cash they don't spend on programmes. In the past if a

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Is Alton up to the climb ahead?

Rock climbing is nothing compared to the uphill task facing the new editor of *The Observer*.

By Paul McCann

ROGER ALTON, the new editor of *The Observer*, is a man obsessed with rock climbing. Lunchtimes are spent on a climbing wall. Now he's at the climb of his life - dragging the circulation, the morale and the look of his new paper back to its previous heights.

He starts off with a backpack full of goodwill, for he is a man universally liked and admired. The only half-negative story heard by this writer is a tale of his getting cramp in his leg while dancing at a hip drum 'n' bass club, and having to limp off the dance floor.

And his popularity should have professional implications for his new job. Under Will Hutton, the previous editor and now editor-in-chief of *The Observer*, a climate of division developed that saw Hutton and his supporters pitted against his deputy, Jocelyn Targett, and supporters of Targett's radical plans for the newspaper.

Under Hutton's predecessor the atmosphere was, if anything, even worse. Andrew Jaspan quickly alienated many *Observer* old hands and was himself frustrated at his inability, thanks to a strong union, to get rid of those he did not rate.

If anyone can pull people to

gether it is Roger," says one senior *Guardian* executive. "He is hugely popular because of his energy, and even if you did have reservations about his judgement, you still had to respect him."

After five years of changing editors and numerous increasingly radical redesigns, *The Observer* is likely to achieve some stability under Alton. "Roger's approach will be that doing a good newspaper is not rocket science," says John Mulbolland, editor of *Sporting Life* and Alton's former media editor at *The Guardian*. "It will be about good stories well presented and executed."

Unlike some of his predecessors, he is unlikely to initiate a mass clear-out of staff. Instead, those who know him are predicting a clear-out of ideas. His influence has already been felt. The story count in his first week's news pages this Sunday was much higher than it has been in recent months. Under Hutton and Targett, a blurring of news and features had made the paper look increasingly confused.

Alton's appointment marks the end of a period of what might be described as over-intellectualising broadsheet newspapers. Jocelyn Targett's proposal for *The Observer* at 12am that there is no time to do



Alton: good newspapers are not rocket science Graham Turner

has been described as a Sunday newspaper inside a magazine. There was even a plan floated to put *The Observer*, a magazine with a newspaper inside it, in a bag rather like the bag used for the massive *New York Times* Sunday edition. Wags at *The Observer* dismissed it as a "mag in a bag", and one said: "We might as well have started making hamburgers and giving a newspaper away with each one purchased."

Targett was said to be in tears when he left *The Observer* building last week, and it may be that his youth and personal style has unfairly attracted envious criticism. Nevertheless, one former colleague contrasts him with Alton thus: "What you see with Alton is what you get - frequently, a dodgy-looking denim jacket. On the other hand, Targett was mainly PR. If his ideas had ever matched his suits, there wouldn't have been such a problem."

Alton's great strength is spotting exactly what the big story is and persuading someone to execute it at short notice. "He is very demanding of people. You can argue with him at 12am that there is no time to do

something and he will come back at 4pm and make you do it anyway. By then there is even less time. So you will never get away with saying no," says one former colleague.

"Although he hates confrontation, he manages to get his way because he is difficult to negotiate with."

The Observer's new editor spends a lot of time out meeting people, talking in pubs, going to the theatre, the cinema and even - apparently - chubbing. "Unlike Alan Rusbridger [editor of *The Guardian*] he is not locked into the dinner-party circuit," says the *Guardian* executive. "You waitages for him in a pub, then he flies in for 25 minutes, sprays you with ideas, picks up stories, then flies out again."

"He crashes in two minutes before conference, shouts for some ideas, goes down to the meeting, then runs out and commissions pieces. He disappears for much of the middle of the day, supposedly to play squash or climb a wall. Then he's back at 4pm, changing everything and pissing off the subs."

The sub, and everyone else at *The Observer*, have been warned.

In the media, you have to make a good fist of it

The newsroom is the scene of many a good brawl, thanks to drink, deadlines and ambition.

By Paul McCann

Unfortunately an old-fashioned copy spike was sitting on the desk and he impaled himself through the chest.

But it is not just scent of ink and newsprint that sets off the journalistic tendency to violence. Scott Chisholm, a Sky News anchorwoman, hit the headlines when he hit his partner Chris Mann. The burly New Zealander was upset about something Mann had said in a magazine interview and the two had argued about it. Hours later a casual remark set Chisholm off and he flattened Mann. Both later left Sky's employ.

But in the annals of Fleet Street nothing quite compares to the last day of *Today*. When the mid-market tabloid was closed in November 1995 the staff put the paper to bed and retired to Henry's Café Bar in Wapping. Very quickly things got out of hand as champagne, beer and spirits were downed in an unseemly rush.

Given that it was the last time many of the paper's staff would see each other it was a last chance to settle some scores. Voices were raised, a punch was thrown and quickly the Wild West came to Wapping. Chairs were thrown, beer bottles crushed under foot and about 20 drunk journalists and photographers were trying to punch each other - most of them missing.

While editor Richard Stott tried to calm things down the police arrived and started pinning reporters, photographers and executives to the floor. Nine were arrested, mostly on charges of being drunk and disorderly, one for hitting a policeman. One journalist ended up in the Royal Free Hospital under sedation.

Today was to be the first newspaper of the computer revolution. But in its closing it stayed true to one of journalism's oldest truths: sometimes the fist is mightier than the pen.

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For more details, and to arrange an interview, telephone Mark Maitland on 01903 734052

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ABOUT YOU

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Regional radio depends on a relentless stream of interviewees. So is it really local? By Terry Thomas

That's an awful lot of head bobbage

I'VE JUST been interviewed as secretary of the local branch of Liberty - the National Council for Civil Liberties - on BBC Radio Leeds' morning programme. Nearby, two BBC staff are talking about a possible current affairs project involving a lot of studio interviews. One of them looks doubtful and says he thinks it will mean "an awful lot of head bobbage".

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The call can be for the breakfast or morning show or the drive-time evening show and is fitted around the news, the sport, the gardening advice and the phone-in astrologer. On one side of you is the new device for opening champagne bottles without an explosion; on the other the national "B" celeb in town.

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It can of course, go the other way. Say something local and it moves upwards to the nationals. We once had spin attached to our local statement that the police should not get involved with truancy because as such truancy is not a criminal offence.

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Despite the mammoth use of head bobbage, you still must question: how local is local radio?

The presenters themselves all talk a bland Nineties-style BBC English with rarely a trace of a local accent. Unless it's a character-presenter's accent - an accent so broad that you would bear it only at a dialect poetry reading at the Illkley Literature Festival.

The interviewees also tend to the same middle-class, middle-England accents - hardly representative of the locality. Often they are the retired or those in jobs that allow them to disappear mid-morning for an interview - a privilege few of us have.

Solicitors and magistrates are favourites for civil liberty issues. The

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Whether this all adds up to local radio being the modern equivalent of gossiping at the village pump is more questionable.

Will the supply of head bobbage ever dry up? It seems unlikely. People still fall over themselves to oblige the magic call from the BBC - or whoever - and local radio knows it can rely on this.

Even with no money on offer, the idea that someone wants to listen to you and is willing to put some wondrous technology at your disposal, is too powerful to resist. Like moths to a flame, the head bobbage will always be there.

The writer is secretary of the Leeds branch of Liberty, and is available for interview

Local radio relies on more than just the Partridgesque witterings of DJs

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PITCH

A PR GURU AND AN AD AGENCY BOSS GIVE THEIR ADVICE ON HOW PRESIDENT CLINTON CAN KEEP HIS IMAGE UNTARNISHED BY THE SMEARS OF MONICAGATE

The publicist: Max Clifford
My suggestions would be:

■ Discredit Kenneth Starr: Say that he has tried and failed in the past - in New Hampshire in 1992, for instance, when draft-dodging and Gennifer Flowers were in the air - to bring Clinton down. Paint him as a fanatical, jealous man whose only aim in life is to smear someone who has been a wonderful champion for America. You could get someone (preferably a Republican) to come out and say of Starr: "This man has told me that his one mission in life is to bring down Clinton - that he hates him and will do anything it takes to get him".

■ Remind everyone of just how successful Clinton has been. It would be useful to get other prominent leaders whom the American public respect talking about the president's successes; for example, get Tony Blair talking about Clinton's vital role in solving the Northern Ireland situation. Also, get some financial experts to say that the economy has never been stronger. The Americans love being number one.

■ Get Clinton to go on television. When you've got his charisma and personality, it's important that you play to your strengths. When it comes down to it, people believe what they want to believe - that's one of the first things you learn about public relations.

■ He keeps doing his job. This has always been his strategy, but he needs to show that he trusts in the judicial system, that he knows he is innocent, and that he will not be distracted from doing what the American people want.

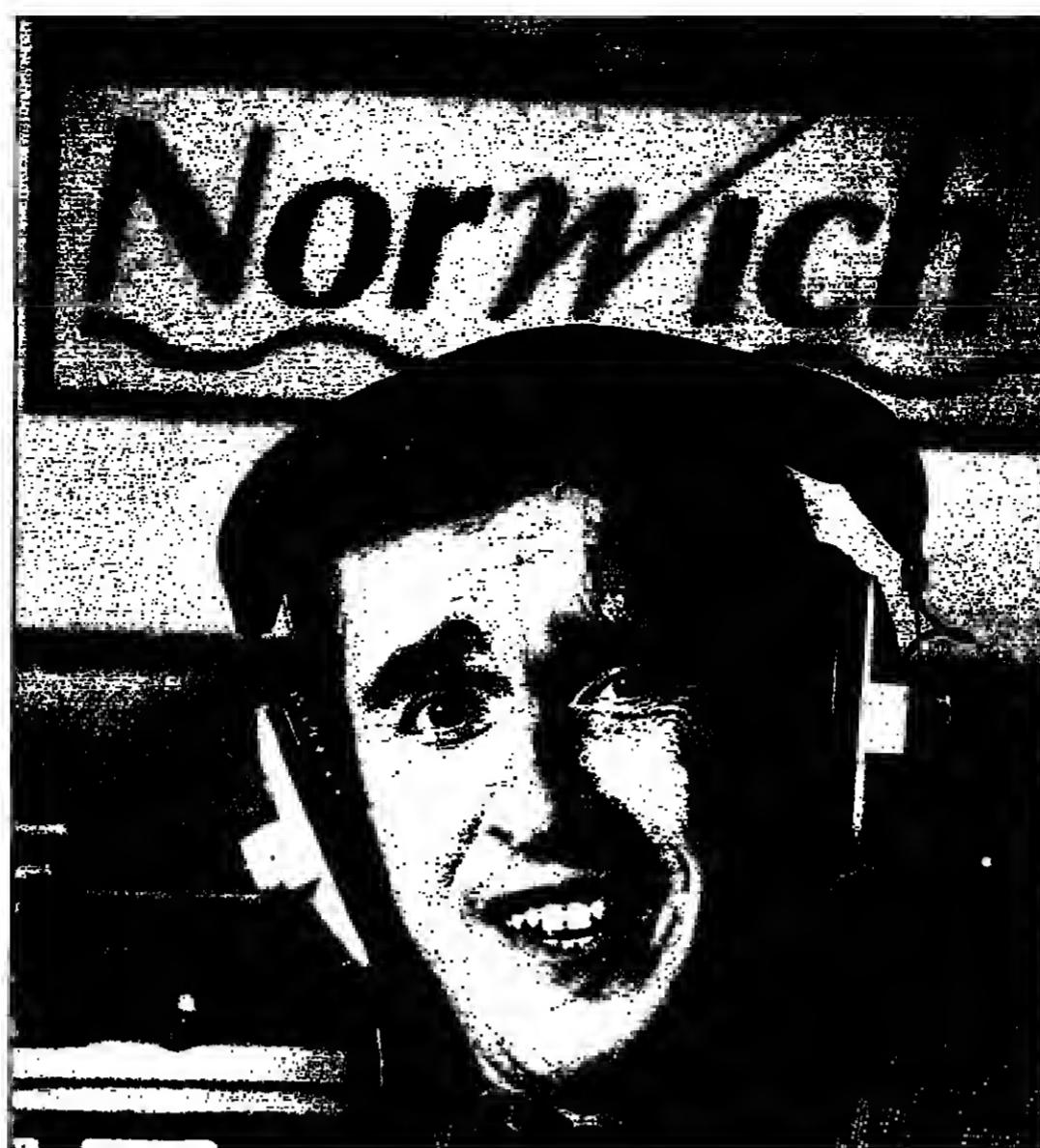
■ He uses a third party - one of his press secretaries - to deflect the daily tension that springs up around this issue. He should never be drawn directly into the fray himself.

■ He at all times maintains his innocence.

■ The Democratic Party initiates a grass-roots movement such as "Citizens Against Conspiracy" or "Americans Against Conspiracy". If Clinton is innocent, there must be a

conspiracy against him. It would need to make a bold statement on TV with 60-second commercials - low frequency, high impact, in prime time. Or full-page newspaper ads - black and white, long text, no pictures.

This grass-roots movement might be fronted by some great moral leader (the perfect person would have been Jimmy Stewart) to speak out in celebration of the positive things that Clinton has done.



16/MEDIA

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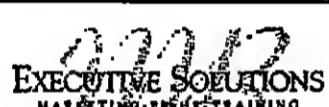
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HARROW
SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303)
♦ Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone Duplicate 8.45pm Giuliano 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm Major Seab 1.30pm, 5pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) ♦ Hanover Hill/Berney's Great Adventure 9.50pm, 11.50am, 1.40pm, 2.25pm, 5.15pm City Of Angels 6.50pm Dr Dolittle 9.30am, 10am, 11.40am, 12.10pm, 1.50pm, 2.25pm, 4pm, 4.30pm, 6.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.20pm, 9pm, 10.20pm The Gingerbread Man 9.40pm Godzilla 11.15am, 2.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.25pm, 6.05pm, 8.10pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 9.05pm The Little Mermaid 10.50am, 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm Lost In Space 9.45am, 12.20pm, 12.40pm, 3.05pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm 9.20pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1.15pm, 1pm, 5pm, 6.05pm Pepple 10.30am, 12.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 7.10pm, 9.30pm Star Kid 10.30am The Wedding Singer 7pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (0181-315 4213) ♦ Holloway Road/Archibald/Berney's Great Adventure 12.15pm Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 12.50pm, 2.25pm, 3.05pm, 4.40pm, 5.10pm, 6.45pm, 7.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm The Gingerbread Man 6.30pm Godzilla 2.15pm, 2.45pm, 8.25pm The Little Mermaid 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 4.50pm Lost In Space 11.35am, 12.20pm, 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm, 8.35pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.15pm Sliding Doors 9.05pm

ILFORD
ODEON (0181-315 4223) ♦ Gants Hill/Berney's Great Adventure 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 3.50pm The Castle 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm Dr Dolittle 11.15am, 1.50pm, 2.30pm, 6.30pm, 6.50pm Godzilla 1.50pm, 5pm, 8pm The Little Mermaid 12noon Lost In Space 11.30am, 2.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.40pm, 2.35pm Six Days, Seven Nights 6.30pm, 8.40pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) ♦ Highgate DR Dolittle 2.25pm, 3.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 8pm Godzilla 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Little Mermaid 12noon Lost In Space 1.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Eye/Berney's Great Adventure 11.45am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.40pm, 5.10pm, 6.50pm, 7.20pm The Little Mermaid 12noon Lost In Space 11.15am, 1pm, 5.05pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 11.50am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm Six Days, Seven Nights 7.30pm, 9.40pm Soul Food 9.35pm Titanic 6.05pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Berney's Great Adventure 12.20pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Godzilla 2.10pm, 6.05pm, 8.05pm The Little Mermaid 12.05pm Lost In Space 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.45pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond DR Dolittle 12.40pm, 2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Godzilla 2.15pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm Lost In Space 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218) BR: Richmond Berney's Great Adventure 1.20pm, 2.40pm, 4.40pm The Castle 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm City Of Angels 6.30pm, 9pm The Gingerbread Man 5.30pm, 9.10pm The Little Mermaid 1.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm Lost In Space 2pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1pm, 3pm

RIMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Rimford/Berney's Great Adventure 12.30pm Dr Dolittle 12.20pm, 2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.40pm Godzilla 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8.05pm The Little Mermaid 12.10pm Lost In Space 2pm, 4.55pm, 8.10pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01708-729040) BR: Rimford/Anastasia 10.20am Berney's Great Adventure 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm The Castle 4.30pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Dr Dolittle 12.00pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 7.30pm The Little Mermaid 12noon Lost In Space 11.40am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm The Wedding Singer 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-9070717) 8R: Cuckoo/Berney's Great Adventure 1pm, 2.45pm The Castle 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9pm Dr Dolittle 1pm, 3pm, 5.10pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Dr Dolittle 12noon, 3pm, 6pm, 8pm Grease (20th Anniversary Edition) 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Lost In Space 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 8.30pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.00pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm The Wedding Singer 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON CARDIFF (0181-315 4219) 8R: Stratford-upon-Avon/Brixton/Clapham Common/Berney's Great Adventure 12.45pm, 2pm, 4.15pm Dr Dolittle 12.50pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm, 6.50pm, 8.50pm The Gingerbread Man 8.30pm Godzilla 3pm, 6pm, 9pm The Little Mermaid 1pm Lost In Space 12.10pm, 3pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm The Wedding Singer 6.30pm, 8pm

ODEON CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01222-399566) Afterglow (16) 8pm Out Of The Past (PG) 7.30pm

NEWQUAY STELLA SCREEN TOUR: NEWQUAY (0870-5770075) The Full Monty (15) film commences at sundown

NORWICH CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Anastasia (U) 2.30pm Gummo (18) 8.15pm Jum Mall (Budbridge) 15.45pm

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) 8R: Stratford East DR Dolittle 12noon, 1.55pm, 3.50pm, 7.45pm The Gingerbread Man 6.45pm, 9.30pm Godzilla 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

THEATRE WEST END THEATRE WEST END (0171-5770075) The Full Monty (15) film commences at sundown

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE THEATRE ROYAL ALBERT HALL (0171-5770075) The Full Monty (15) film commences at sundown

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THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE THEATRE ROYAL ALBERT HALL (0171-57

TUESDAY RADIO

RADIO 1
(97.6-99.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Mark Goodier. 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow.
12.30 Newsbeat. 12.45 Jo Whiley.
2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 6.30 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session. 8.30 Digital Update. 8.40 John Peel. 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs. 12.00 The Breeze-block. 2.00 Charlie Jordan. 4.00. 6.30 Clive Warren.

RADIO 2
(88.9-92MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex Lester. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Carl Davis Classics. 8.00 Nigel Ogden. 9.00 Fag End: the History of Smoking. See Pick of the Day. 10.00 Giant Strides (Stride Piano). 10.30 Richard Allinson. 12.05 Steve Madden. 3.00 - 4.00 Annie Other.

RADIO 3
(92.2-94MHz FM)

6.00 On Air.

9.00 Masterworks.

10.30 Proms Artist of the Week.

11.00 Sound Stories.

12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Elgar.

1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert.

2.00 BBC Proms 98. (F)

4.00 Choral Voices.

4.45 Quartet.

5.00 In Tune.

7.30 BBC Proms 98. The first of Elgar's symphonies, all three of which (including Anthony Payne's version of No 3) feature in this Proms season, is one of the all-time great romantic cello concertos and a moving homage to the dead of Katyn in Poland. Yo-Yo Ma (cello), BBC Symphony Orchestra/Seiji Ozawa. Paratucci: Katyn Epitaph. Dvorak: Cello Concerto in B minor.

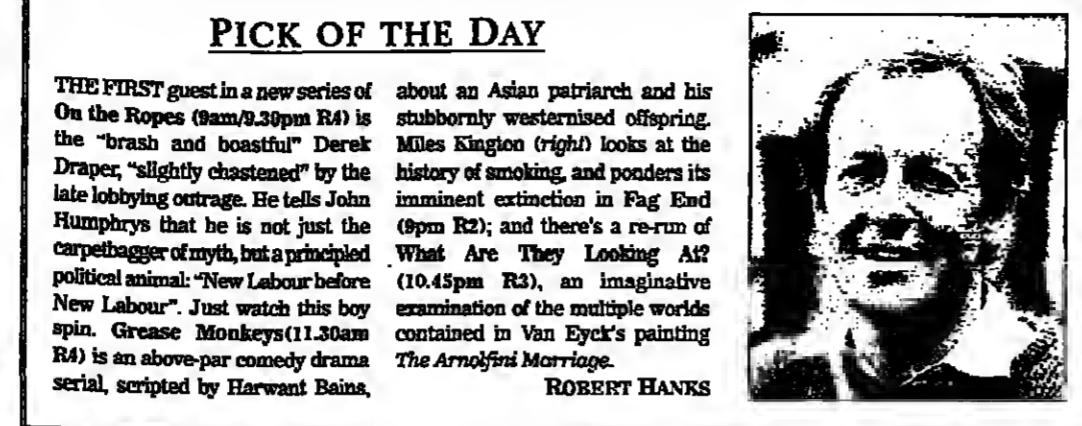
8.20 Gossip from Giggleswick.

Kenneth Shenton explores the correspondence between Edward Elgar and Yorkshire doctor Charles Buck, his close confidante for 50 years. (R)

8.40 Concert, part 2: Elgar:

Symphony No 1 in A flat.

9.00 Postscript. Five programmes this week in which Nicholas Ward-Jackson explores the contemporary art world. In the second programme, he talks to Gillian Wearing about life after the Turner Prize. Recorded



PICK OF THE DAY

THE FIRST guest in a new series of *On the Ropes* (9am/1.30pm R4) is the "brash and boastful" Derek Draper, "slightly chastened" by the late lobbying outrage. He tells John Humphrys that he is not just the carpetbagger of myth, but a principled political animal: "New Labour before New Labour". Just watch this boy spin. *Grease Monkeys* (11.30am R4) is an above-par comedy drama serial, scripted by Harvart Bain.

ROBERT HANKS

on the streets of London. Wearing talks about her ongoing fascination with the city's public spaces and private lives. The programme contains new audio works by her: (R)

10.45 Voices from the Netherlands: Music by Duray and Joquin performed by the Hillard Ensemble.

10.45 What Are They Looking At?

A journey into the heart of one of the National Gallery of London's most famous paintings - The Arnolfini Portrait by Van Eyck. "I've been coming to look at this for 30 years," says one visitor; "and I don't know why it moves me so much."

No do the critics; nor do we. For

the last 100 years of its 500-year history, Van Eyck's secular masterpiece, a double portrait of a richly dressed couple, sometimes called

The Arnolfini Marriage, has managed

to please, puzzle and polarise both critical and public opinion. Radio 3 goes through the mirror into the heart of the work. With Jack Klaff

Van Eyck. See Pick of the Day. (R)

11.30 Jazz Notes.

12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Handel. (R)

1.00 - 9.00 Through the Night.

RADIO 4

(92.2-94MHz FM)

6.00 Today.

9.00 On the Ropes. See Pick of the Day.

9.30 The Vale.

9.45 Cod: A Biography of the Fish That Changed the World.

10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.

11.00 NEWS: A Book That Changed History. (R)

11.30 Grease Monkeys. See Pick of the Day.

12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.

12.57 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Trivia of the Trade.

2.00 NEWS: The Archers.

2.25 Afternoon Play: Telling Tales.

3.00 NEWS: The Exchange (0171) 580 4444.

3.30 A Childhood of Play. (R)

3.45 The Death of Brian.

4.00 NEWS: A Good Read.

4.30 Shop Talk.

5.00 PM.

5.57 Weather.

6.00 Six O'Clock News.

6.30 The Mark Steel Revolution.

7.00 NEWS: The Archers.

7.25 Front Row. Mark Lawson presents the night arts programme.

7.45 Postcards: On the Rocks. By Helen Kluger. Sizzling Sydne Sachar, fading American diva, steps out of Hollywood into Portobello Bay. Can the locals cope as filming begins?

More to the point, can they act? With

Lorraine King and Tristan Sturrock.

Director Paulina Harris (2/5).

9.00 NEWS: Face the Facts. John Waite and his team of investigators follow up listeners' complaints and look at wider issues affecting the lives of ordinary people.

9.45 In Touch. Peter White with news for visually impaired people.

9.00 NEWS: The Healers. BBC social affairs editor Neil Dickson presents six programmes about people who work in healthcare and how the pressures they work under affect the lot of patients. 5: The Psychiatrist.

Why do psychiatrists get such a bad press, and how will they cope with the increasing numbers of elderly patients who have dementia?

9.30 On the Ropes. John Humphrys talks to successful people who have weathered storms in their careers: Derek Draper, the political lobbyist at the centre of the Government's cash-for-access scandal. See Pick of the Day.

10.00 The World Tonight.

10.45 Book at Bedtime: *Fame is the Spur*. By Howard Spring, read by David Calder (2/10).

11.00 Goodness Gracious Me. A six-part series of the award-winning Asian sketch show: 2. *The Gourmet*. Maharanji offers a recipe for fried mackerel toes. Starring Sanjeev Bhaskar, Kulvinder Ghir, Meera Syal and Nina Wadia. (R)

11.30 Taking Pictures.

12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Book: *The Shipping News*. (R)

12.45 Shipping Forecast.

1.00 As World Service.

1.30 World News.

5.35 Shipping Forecast.

5.45 Inshore Forecast.

5.45 Prayer for the Day.

5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW

(198kHz LW)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service.

12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines:

Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57

Shipping Forecast.

RADIO 5 LIVE

(69.9, 909kHz MW)

6.00 The Breakfast Programme.

9.00 Nicky Campbell.

12.00 The Midday News.

1.00 Russells and Co.

4.00 Nationwide.

7.00 News Extra.

7.30 Any Sporting Questions? John Inverdale hosts a sporting debate from Sunderland's Stadium of Light, where a studio audience put their questions to a panel of sporting celebrities including Sunderland striker Niall Quinn.

9.00 Extra Time. Mark Steel and guests go back to the 1988 Benson and Hedges Cup final for this week's comedy sports quiz.

10.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson. Including

10.30 a full sports round-up. 11.00

News and finance. And, between

11.30 and 1.00, a sharp and spirited late-night topical discussion.

1.00 Up All Night.

5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM

(100-101.9MHz FM)

6.00 Nick Bailey. 9.00 Henry Kelly.

12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 Jamie Cricht. 6.30 Newsnight.

7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven.

9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00

Michael Mappin. 2.00 Concerto.

3.00 - 5.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO

(125.7-126.2MHz MW)

6.30 Chris Evans. 8.30 Russ Williams.

1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Robin Banks/FM

only Ray Davies from 840pm. 2.30 Ray Colley. 4.00 Paul Coyle. 1.30 Peter Poulton. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE

(198kHz LW)

1.00 Newswise. 1.30 The Farming

World. 1.45 British Today. 2.00

Newswise. 2.30 Discovery. 3.00

Newsday. 3.30 Meridian (Live). 4.00

World News. 4.05 World Business

Report. 4.35 Sports Roundup. 4.30 -

7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO

6.30 Kristy Young with Bill Overton.

9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Fauburn. 3.00

Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Deasy.

7.00 Nick Abbot. 8.00 James Whale.

1.00 Ian Collins. 5.00 - 6.30 Early

Show with Bill Overton.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

AFTER SIX rounds of the British Championship in Torquay, two favourites, Nigel Short and Matthew Sadler, share the lead on 5 points. Jon Speelman is half a point behind.

Short and Sadler both won their first four games, then met in round five, in a game in which Sadler had to defend accurately to save an endgame a pawn behind. In the sixth round, Short was held to a draw by Jonathan Rowson while Sadler drew with Speelman.

In both the fifth and the sixth

CREATIVITY

WILLIAM HARTSTON

with a 69. If only golfers still wore plus-fours, such displays of youthful exuberance might be curbed."

Len Clarke doesn't like checks and headed straight for the check out when he was given a pair.

"A golfer who went on a cruise. Cried: 'What shall I do with my tennis?'

He laid them on deck

BBC1

ITV Carlton

Channel 4

Channel 5

THE TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 4 August 1998

THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

If THE SCULPTOR was anything to go by then Thal by Jury (BBC2) had an edge of authority over more conventional courtroom drama. Purple prose, pungent sarcasm and hammy theatrics upstaged even the most real barristers, though they do when conducting the elaborate theatre of the law - since the whole point of feuding is a fictional case through a real machine is to allow us to see how the gears operate. In this three-part story a detective inspector is up on positive, having gathered from formidably troubled extorting a cut of their monthly earnings. The insolvent henchman, who can't record his paper, whom covert recordings and video footage now form an important part of the prosecution's case. Only the witnesses and the accused are played by actors, but when they insist on performing from a detailed briefing rather than a line-by-line script, since the barristers must be allowed to question them with impunity, the exercise would be entirely pointless.

I'm not sure I could see the point anyway - apart from filling the idle hours for Newsnight viewers suffering from protracted foaming at the mouth syndrome of which is an inability to leave you unimpassioned. The sofa and slinger to your lady justice who personally wags in a wistful question to the detective, "Silver," he said to me in my unblushing admiration: "You're a real-life superhero!"

He's got it broadly right - from the formidable strength of Northern clubs to the maturing of QC's cross-examination: "Silver," he said from the tabloid paper. "Silver convinced that the biblical illusion would work for a modern guy but one in this programme also composed of ordinary people, watched with an unnatural somnolence which probably had as much to do with the novelty of being told us with the ring of being honest, as the intensity of the law in action.

In court, someone might have sniggered or yawned, but on screen they all adopted expressions of imperious gravity. The case itself could be argued, but it is properly avergedly representative, because it must be carefully crafted to reflect

between guilt and innocence. This is now real barristers' acting all night. Except they aren't, though they do when conducting the elaborate theatre of the law - since the whole point of feuding is a fictional case through a real machine is to allow us to see how the gears operate. In this three-part story a detective inspector is up on positive, having gathered from formidably troubled extorting a cut of their monthly earnings. The insolvent henchman, who can't record his paper, whom covert recordings and video footage now form an important part of the prosecution's case. Only the witnesses and the accused are played by actors, but when they insist on performing from a detailed briefing rather than a line-by-line script, since the barristers must be allowed to question them with impunity, the exercise would be entirely pointless.

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THE TUESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 4 August 1998

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